それでも町は廻っている

通称"それ町"

石黒正数

Ishiguro Masakazu

Soredemo Machi ha Mawatteiru

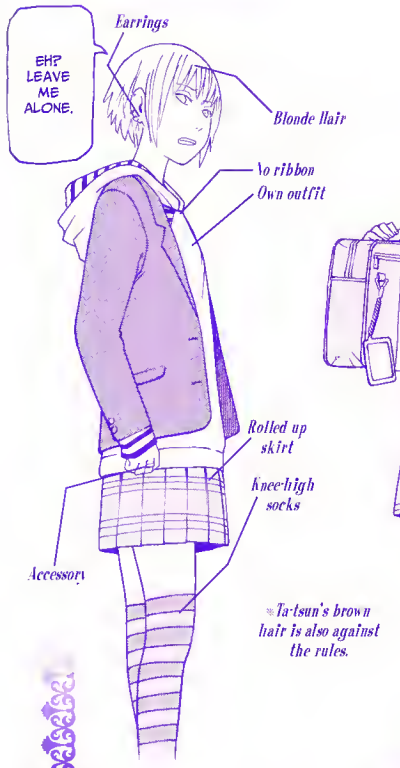
YOUNG KING COMICS

Eppur, citta muove!

AND YET THE TOWN MOVES

OYA HIGH SCHOOL SECRETS

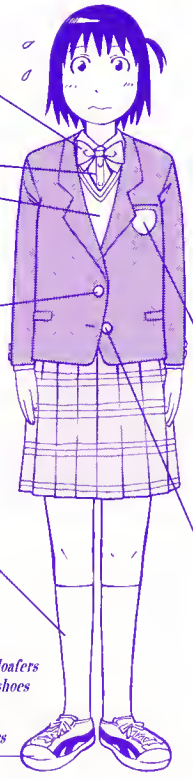
ENTIRELY AGAINST THE RULES



*Ta-tsun's brown hair is also against the rules.

SUMMER UNIFORM

WINTER UNIFORM



SOCKS
Cannot cover the knee
White, black, or navy blue
Only one decorative emblem allowed

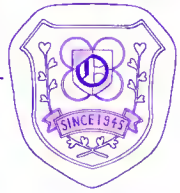
SHOES
Girls wear black or brown loafers
Boys wear black leather shoes

Students wear designated sneakers indoors

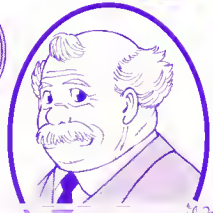
SCHOOL EMBLEM

The emblem uses the motif of shepherd's grass, the school flower, with four petals and six stamens.

SCHOOL CREST



BUTTON



Principal Oya Takayuki

YOUNG KING COMICS

通称"それ町"

それでも町は廻っている

AND YET, THE TOWN MOVES

5

石黒正数
ISHIGURO MASAKAZU

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※THIS STORY IS A WORK OF FICTION. NONE OF THE CHARACTERS, HAPPENINGS, ETC. ARE REAL!!

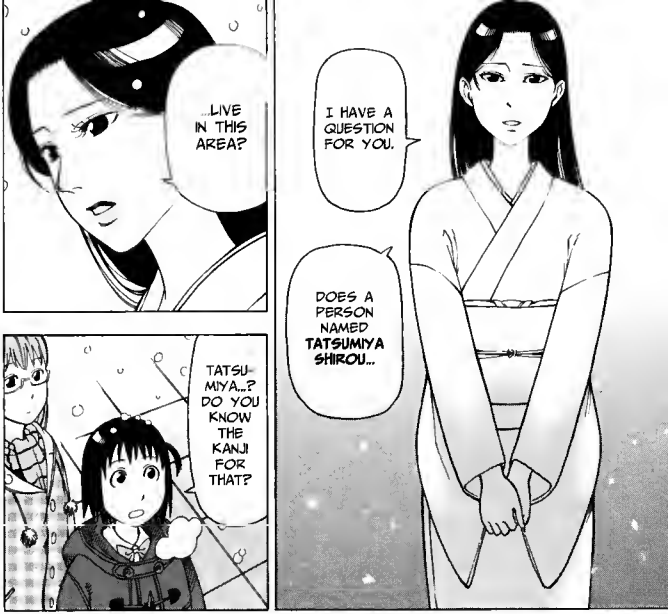
ミーン
CHIRP
ミーン
CHIRP
カラン
RATTLE
THAT WAS VERY HELP-FUL...
YOU SEE—
THAT SOUNDS LIKE A FOREIGN NAME.
THEN I'M—

CHAPTER 35
TALE OF THE VISITOR IN THE SNOW

BUILDING: MURAKAMI THE BUTCHER

OKKOTONUSHI: A BOAR-GOD FROM THE ANIMATED FILM PRINCESS MONONOKE

UM... EXCUSE ME...
NOT VERY CONVINC-ING.
THAT'S LIKE TELLING SOMEONE TO GO BUY "EVERYONE" DRINKS BECAUSE "EVERYONE" IS WAITING.
BUT SNOW MAKES EVERY-ONE HAPPY.


...LIVE IN THIS AREA?
I HAVE A QUESTION FOR YOU.
DOES A PERSON NAMED TATSUMIYA SHIROU...
TATSU-MIYA...? DO YOU KNOW THE KANJI FOR THAT?

DO YOU KNOW HIM?
I'M SORRY, I DON'T KNOW HOW TO WRITE OUT HIS NAME.
OF COURSE NOT. I DON'T LIVE IN THIS AREA...

I'M SUPPOSED TO KNOW EVERY-THING ABOUT THIS TOWN...
YOU CAN'T KNOW EVERY-THING.
THAT MEANS IT'S TIME TO ASK THE POLICE FOR HELP.
OKAY ...!
AH!
THIEF!!
SILENCE
?
THAT'S ODD.
I FIGURED THAT...
THIEF!
WHAT?!
CLATTER
...HE WOULD SHOW UP LIKE THAT.

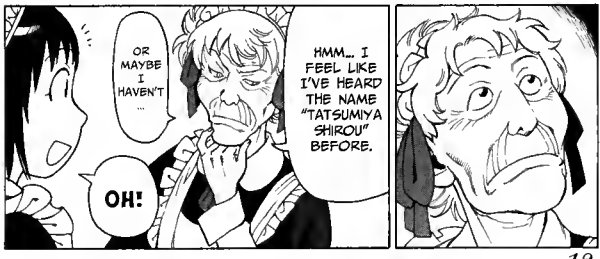
ARE YOU TAILING US? SOMETHING SEEMS FISHY.
I JUST HAPPENED TO BE IN THE AREA.
POLICE
HE REALLY SHOWED UP!
AM I SUPPOSED TO BE A MANGA CHARACTER?!
BYE! I HOPE IT DOESN'T TAKE YOU LONG TO FIND... TAMAMUSHI GOROU... WAS IT?
THAT'S NOT HIS NAME, BUT THANK YOU.
SIGN: MAID CAFE SEASIDE
メイド
喫茶
シーサイド
THE SNOW WILL CONTINUE UNTIL TOMORROW, WITH THE POSSIBILITY OF BLIZZARD CONDITIONS.
IT WILL BEGIN SNOWING IN THE KANTO REGION AFTER NOON.

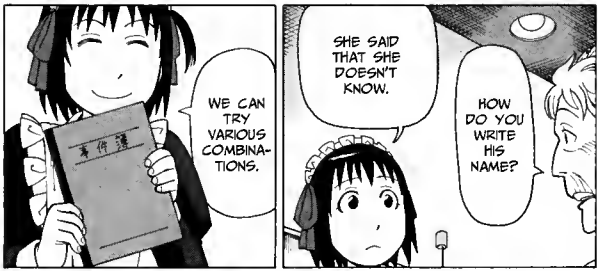
IS GLOBAL WARMING TO BLAME AGAIN?
YES, THANK YOU VERY MUCH. WELL, IT SOUNDS LIKE THERE'S A STORM IN THE KANTO REGION.
THAT WAS YOUR WEATHER UPDATE.
MAN, MY FEET ARE FREEZ-ING.
LIKE WHAT?
GLOBAL WARMING DOES ALL KINDS OF BAD THINGS!
WHAT DOES COLD WEATHER HAVE TO DO WITH GLOBAL WARMING?
YOU HAVE NO IDEA WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT!!
GRAN, SHE'S NOT ECO-FRIENDLY!
GIVE ME SOME CONCRETE EXAMPLES.
SQUEAL
LIKE THAT! YOUR APATHY WILL RUIN OUR EARTH!!

RATTLE
カラン
RATTLE
カラン
BRR... IT'S SO COLD!
POLICE
OH, YOU HAVEN'T MANAGED TO FIND...
...TAMA-MUSHI GOROU?
I CHECKED THE ADDRESS BOOK AT THE STATION, BUT HE WASN'T ON THERE...
SO I WAS WONDERING IF YOU MIGHT RECOGNIZE THE NAME, ISOHATA-SAN...
POLICE
TAT-SUMIYA.
TAMA-MUSHI GO-ROU?!
TATSU-MIYA SHIROU.
I'VE ONLY BEEN WORKING HERE FOR TWO YEARS...
OH, CAN I GET OMELET RICE?
SURE THING.
POLICE

ヒョン HOP
I CAN'T STAND HEAT, SO COULD YOU SEAT US AWAY FROM THE FURNACE?
OH, SURE.
UM...
.....
AND, PLEASE, MAY I HAVE SOME COLD WATER?
YEP. WATER IS FREE.
OUR POLICY IS TO LEAVE THE CUSTOMERS BE.
BUT WE'RE A MAID CAFE.
SHE LOOKS KIND OF PALE.
SHOULDN'T WE GIVE HER SOMETHING TO EAT?
DON'T STICK YOUR NOSE WHERE IT DOESN'T BELONG.

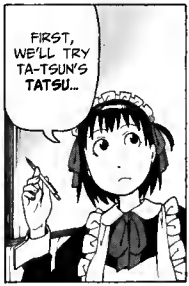
BOOK: NEIGHBORHOOD MAP





BOOK CASE BOOK

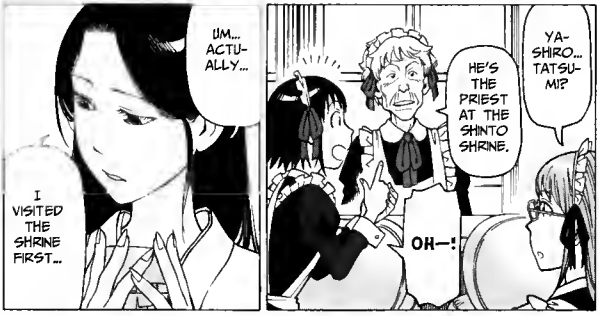
JINGU: THE OFFICIAL NAME OF THE ISE GRAND SHRINE AND A GENERAL TERM FOR IMPERIAL SHINTO SHRINES.

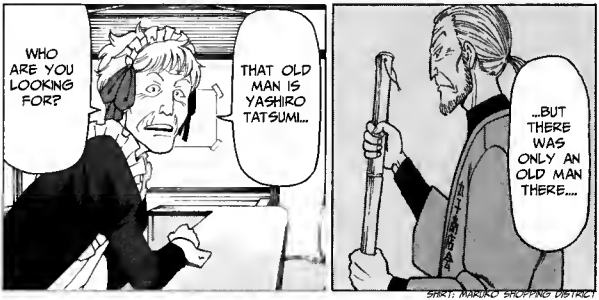


YES, THAT WAS INCONSIDERATE OF ME. I'M SO SORRY, YOU MONKEY!!
I WOULD HAVE UNDERSTOOD IF YOU SAID THE MIYA FROM MIYAGAWA DAISUKE HANAKO.
OH...

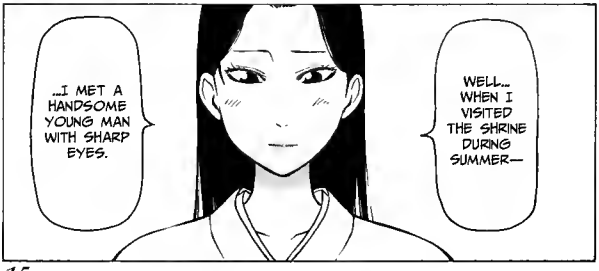
MIYAGAWA DAISUKE HANAKO: A HUSBAND-WIFE COMEDY DUO.

PAGE: TATSUMIYA SHIROU (X3)



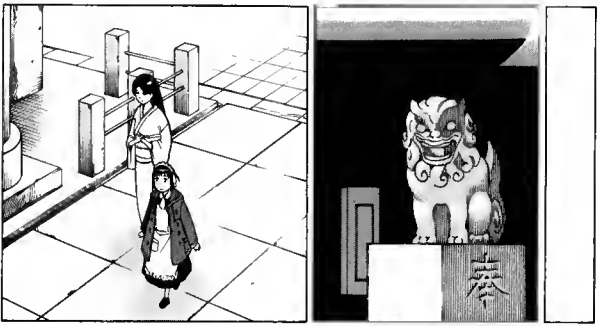


SHIRT: MARUKO SHOPPING DISTRICT



YOUR HANDSOME YOUNG MAN MIGHT BE A RELATIVE OF THE OLD GEEZER!
AH...
WE MIGHT FIND A CLUE!
WELL, LET'S TRY THE SHRINE, THEN.

IF THEY DON'T FIND HIM, THEY'LL COME BACK.
SHOULDN'T YOU GO WITH THEM?
WELL, THERE SHE GOES.

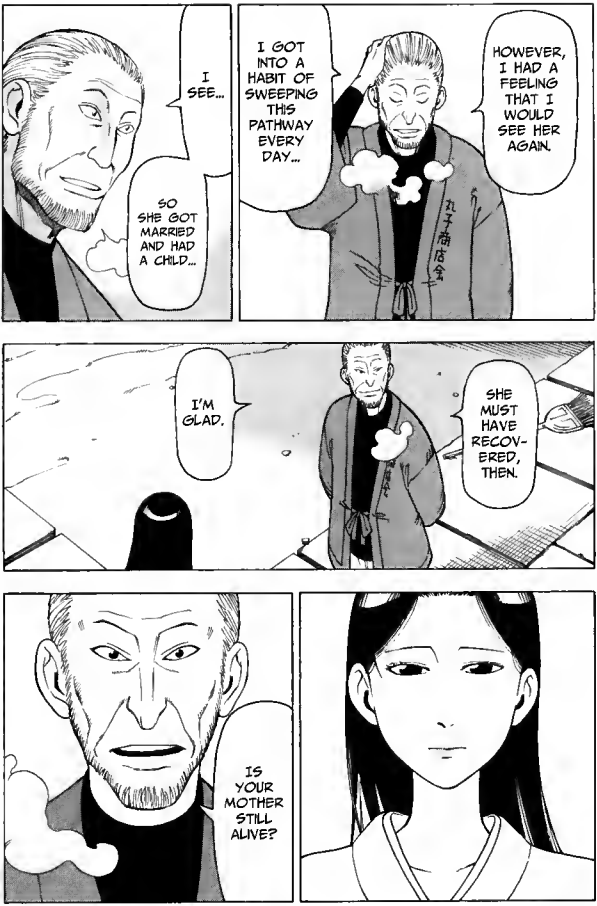


YA-SHIRO-SAN.
YEAH!
OVER HERE.
YOU SEE, THIS LADY HERE IS...
CLACK

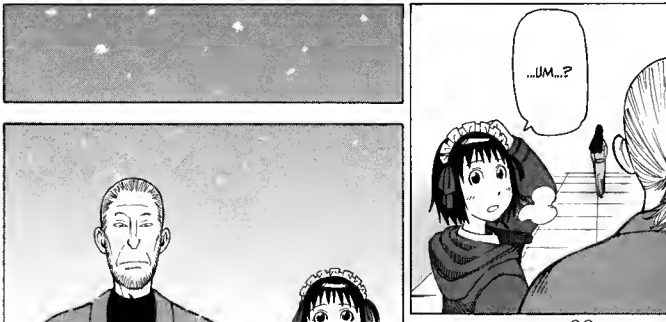
COULD YOU POSSIBLY BE...
ONDA YUKI-SAN'S DAUGHTER ...?!
丸子商店会
ARE YOU...
...SHI-RO-SAN?
DAUGH-TER...?
YES... THAT'S RIGHT.
YOUR MOTHER CALLED ME SHIRO-SAN..
WE MET ONE SUMMER THIRTY YEARS AGO—

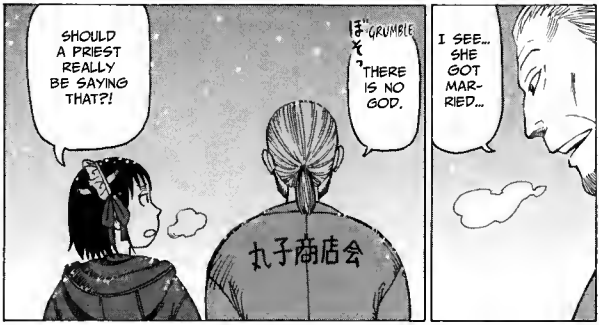
EXCUSE ME..
COULD YOU PLEASE BRING ME SOME COLD WATER?
I WAS SWEEPING THE WALK-WAY...
AFTER THAT, SHE BEGAN VISITING THE SHRINE ON A REGULAR BASIS.
RATTLE
カラン
HOW-EVER, HER HEALTH APPEARED TO WORSEN WITH EACH VISIT...
ALL I COULD DO...

HOW-
EVER, HER
CONDITION
CONTINUED
TO DETE-
RIORATE...
ON MAYURA
KIRANTEI RAABA
SOWAKA
ON MAYURA
KIRANTEI RAABA
SOWAKA
...WAS
PRAY
FOR HER
RECOV-
ERY...
I WILL BE
RETURNING
HOME TO
RECUPERATE.
CHIRP
CHIRP
CHIRP
CHIRP
YUKI-
SAN...
I WAS
UNDER THE
IMPRESSION
THAT SHE
WOULDN'T
LIVE MUCH
LONGER...
ONCE
I GET
BETTER,
I'LL COME
BACK TO
SEE YOU.
...I
PROMISE!


I SEE...
SO SHE GOT MARRIED AND HAD A CHILD...
I GOT INTO A HABIT OF SWEEPING THIS PATHWAY EVERY DAY...
HOWEVER, I HAD A FEELING THAT I WOULD SEE HER AGAIN.
I'M GLAD.
SHE MUST HAVE RECOVERED, THEN.
IS YOUR MOTHER STILL ALIVE?

...YES.
AFTER MEETING YOU HERE THIRTY YEARS AGO...
...MY MOTHER...
...IS DOING VERY WELL.
ESPECIALLY DURING THE WINTER.

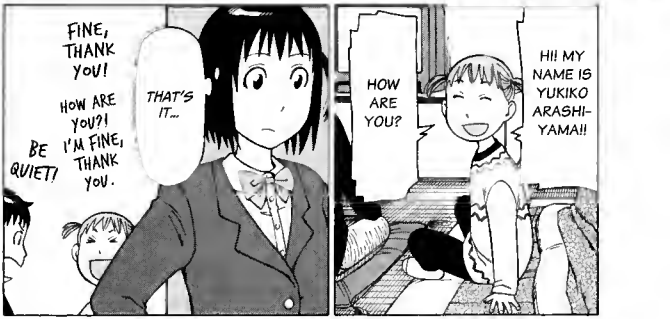

...UM...?

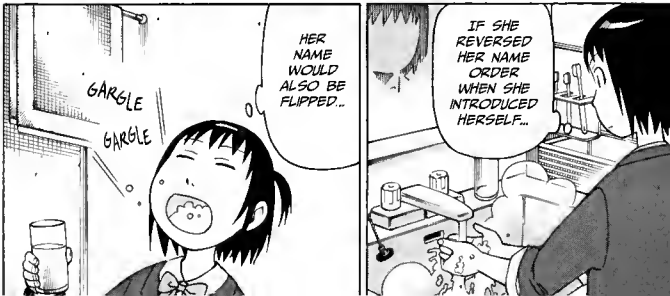

SHOULD A PRIEST REALLY BE SAYING THAT?!
ぼそ
GRUMBLE
THERE IS NO GOD.
れ子商店会
I SEE... SHE GOT MAR-RIED...

ゴオ
HOWL

I DIDN'T UNDERSTAND THAT GROWN-UP CONVERSA-TION...
I'M HOME!
BRRRR!

HI! MY NAME IS HOTORI ARASHI-YAMA!
THAT'S WHAT MADE IT SO CONFUS-ING...
STILL, WHY DID SHE FLIP YASHIRO-SAN'S NAME AROUND?

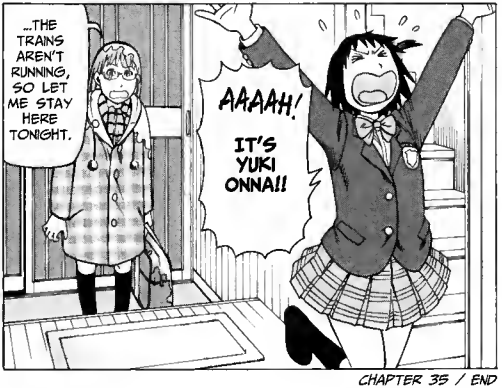

HI! MY NAME IS YUKIKO ARASHI-YAMA!!
HOW ARE YOU?
THAT'S IT...
FINE, THANK YOU!
HOW ARE YOU?! I'M FINE, THANK YOU.
BE QUIET!


HER NAME WOULD ALSO BE FLIPPED..
GARGLE GARGLE
IF SHE REVERSED HER NAME ORDER WHEN SHE INTRODUCED HERSELF...

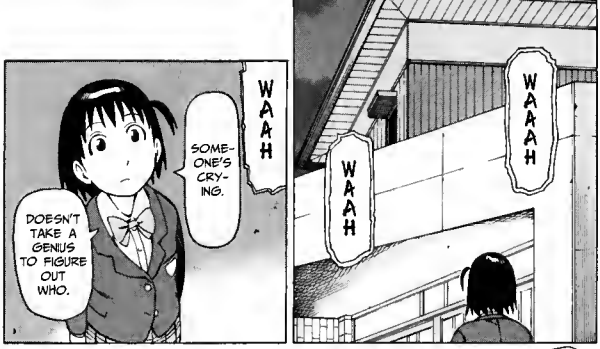
YUKI ONDA...
ONDA YUKI.
ONDA YUKI.
...TATSUMI YASHIRO.
THAT SOUNDS LIKE A FOREIGN NAME.
THEN I'M...
I AM...
...YUKI ONDA.
NO WAY.
...HA HA HA.
...YUKI ONNA (SNOW WOMAN).
YOU SEE... I'M...
YUKI ONDA.

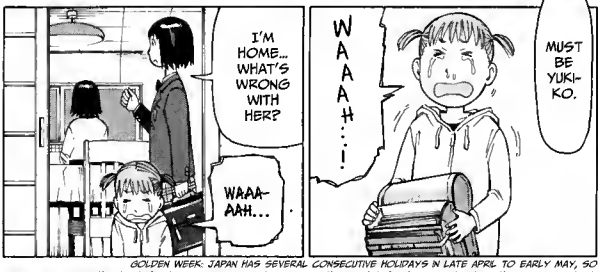
EEK?!
POUND
POUND
POUND
HOWL

SLAM


...THE TRAINS AREN'T RUNNING, SO LET ME STAY HERE TONIGHT.
AAAAH! IT'S YUKI ONNA!!

CHAPTER 36
GRADUATION





GOLDEN WEEK: JAPAN HAS SEVERAL CONSECUTIVE HOLIDAYS IN LATE APRIL TO EARLY MAY, SO SCHOOLS AND BUSINESSES OFTEN CLOSE FOR THE WEEK AND MANY PEOPLE USE THE TIME TO TRAVEL.

TAKERU, GO WITH HER.
YOU CAN BRING YOUR GYM UNIFORM HOME TO WASH.
YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO GET INSIDE ONCE GOLDEN WEEK STARTS.
I'LL CALL YOUR SCHOOL, SO GO GET YOUR STUFF.
NO.
...I DON'T NEED TO WASH MY UNIFORM.
STARE
じ
WAAAH!!

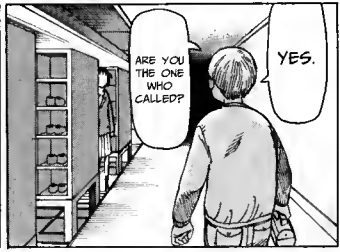
HIC-CUP.
HIC-CUP.
OH!
YOU'RE GOING TO GO BY YOUR-SELF?
STUMBLE
すっく
SOB... SOB...
SOB. SOB.
パチ
FLASH
ブン
BZZ
SNIFF. SNIFF.
?
YOU'RE TURNING ON THE TV?
SOB. SOB.
YOU'RE GIVING UP?!!
WAAAH
WHACK
ピャラリ
ビシバシ
DEEDLE
WHAM

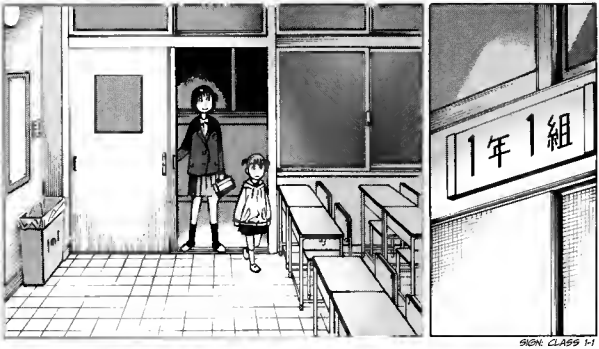
I HAD A FEELING THIS WOULD HAPPEN...
SNIFF. SNIFF.

EX-CUSE ME.

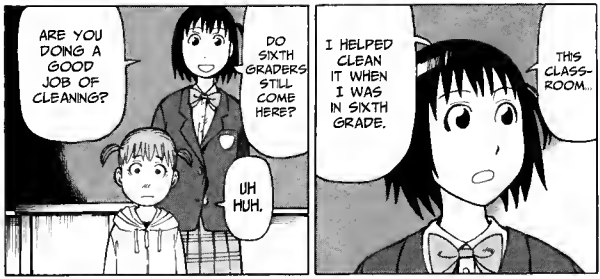
AH!
WERE THE SHOE CUP-BOARDS ALWAYS THIS LOW...?

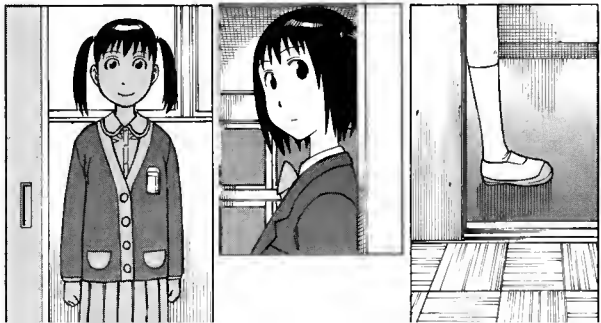
OKAY.
GIVE ME A HOLLER WHEN YOU LEAVE.


ARE YOU THE ONE WHO CALLED?
YES.

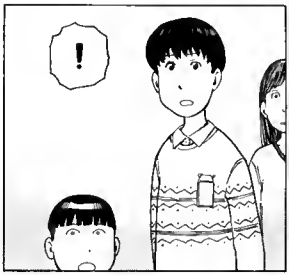


SIGN: CLASS 1-1


THIS CLASS-ROOM...
I HELPED CLEAN IT WHEN I WAS IN SIXTH GRADE.
DO SIXTH GRADERS STILL COME HERE?
UH HUH.
ARE YOU DOING A GOOD JOB OF CLEANING?



WRIGGLE
WRIGGLE
STOP FOOLING AROUND!
IDIOT
STOP FOOLING AROUND! EVERYONE ELSE IS CLEANING!
HERE WE GOOO—
HEY—!
SPLAT
OH, THEY'RE LIGHT BLUE.
FLIP
バサ
IDIOT
YEAH.
ARASHI-YAMA... JUST IGNORE HIM.

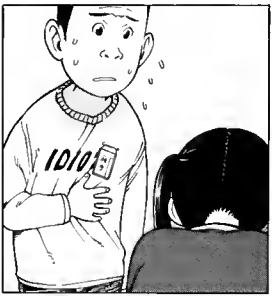

!

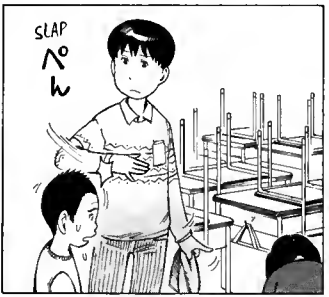
GEEZ —!

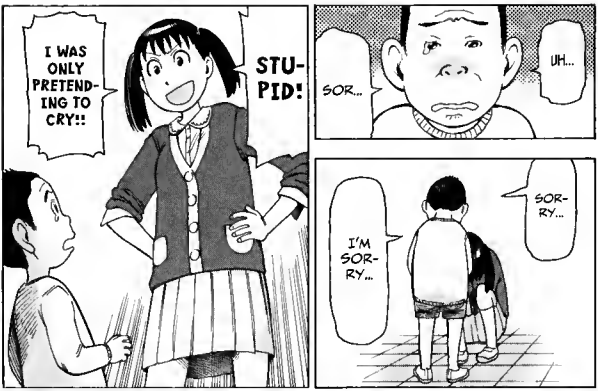
!
IDIO

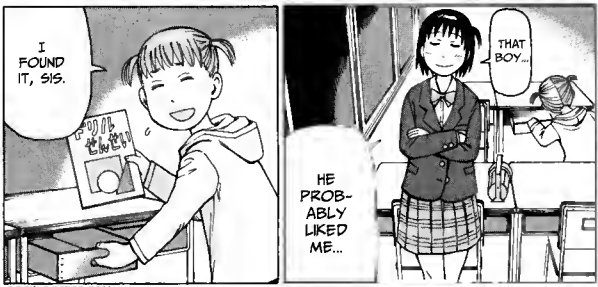
WHY CAN'T YOU JUST CLEAN LIKE THE REST OF US?

PIN: APE


IDIO


SLAP
ペん



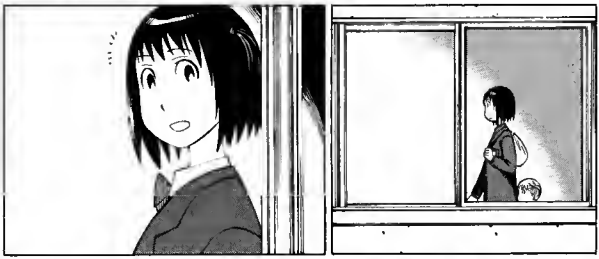


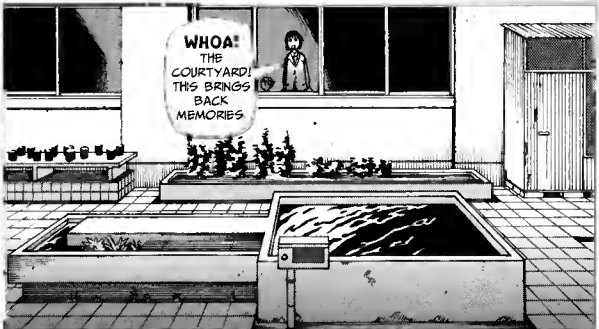
BOOK: DOCTOR DRILL

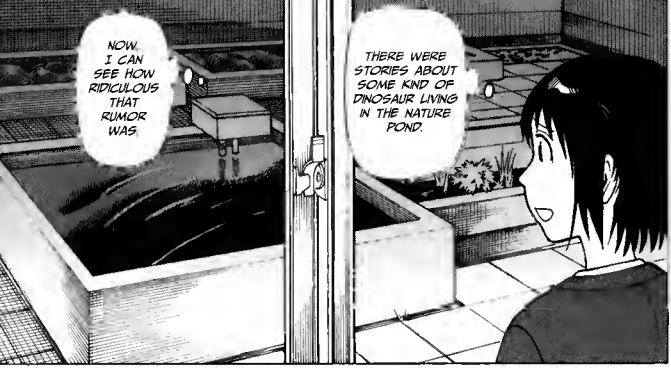
I WAS JUST TESTING YOU TO SEE IF YOU'LL GROW UP TO BE AN ADULT WHO DOESN'T FORGET STUFF.
3年2組
I DIDN'T FORGET ABOUT HIS UNIFORM.
3-2

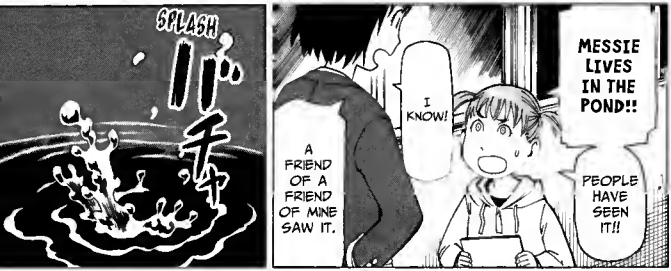
SIGN: CLASS 3-2

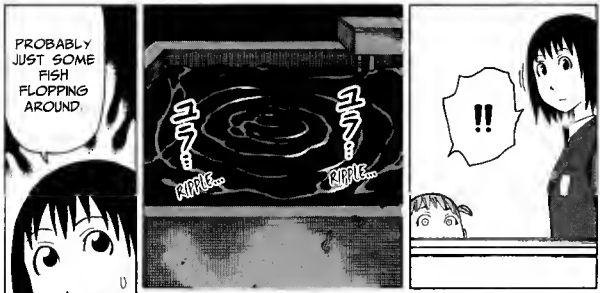
BAG: ARASHIYAMA TAKERU





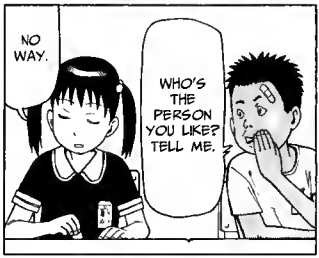

NOW, I CAN SEE HOW RIDICULOUS THAT RUMOR WAS.
THERE WERE STORIES ABOUT SOME KIND OF DINOSAUR LIVING IN THE NATURE POND.

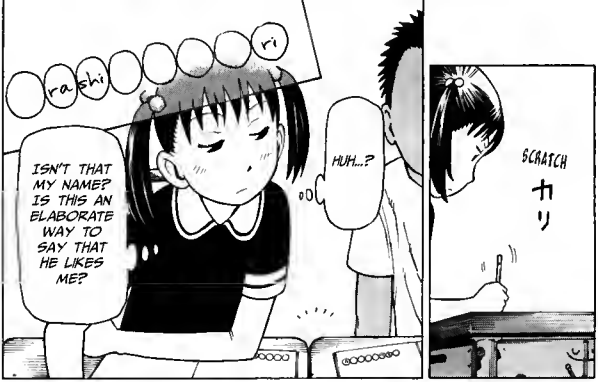

SPLASH
バチャ
A FRIEND OF A FRIEND OF MINE SAW IT.
I KNOW!
MESSIE LIVES IN THE POND!!
PEOPLE HAVE SEEN IT!!

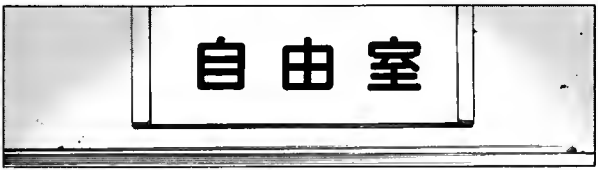

PROBABLY JUST SOME FISH FLOPPING AROUND.
ユラ…
RIPPLE...
ユラ…
RIPPLE...
!!

GET A GLIMPSE OF MY OLD CLASS-ROOM.
SINCE WE'RE HERE, I SHOULD STOP BY 6-1.
WHAAAT?!
CLIMB THESE STAIRS ...
...TO SEE THE FAMIL-IAR...

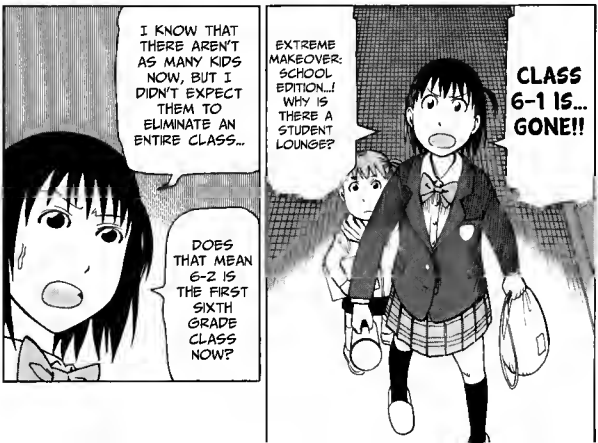
SIGN: CLASS 6-1







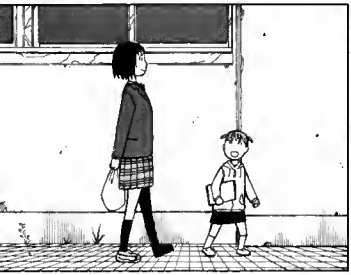
SIGN: STUDENT LOUNGE


I KNOW THAT THERE AREN'T AS MANY KIDS NOW, BUT I DIDN'T EXPECT THEM TO ELIMINATE AN ENTIRE CLASS...
DOES THAT MEAN 6-2 IS THE FIRST SIXTH GRADE CLASS NOW?
EXTREME MAKEOVER: SCHOOL EDITION...! WHY IS THERE A STUDENT LOUNGE?
CLASS 6-1 IS... GONE!!

6-1
CLASS 6-1 IS OVER THERE!!
ACCORDING TO MY MEMORY, THAT USED TO BE CLASS 6-2.

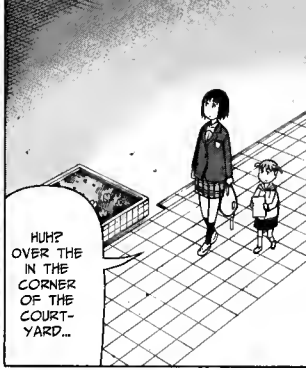
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
YES, BE CARE-FUL.

THAT WAS A LET-DOWN.
I SHOULDN'T HAVE COME UP HERE...

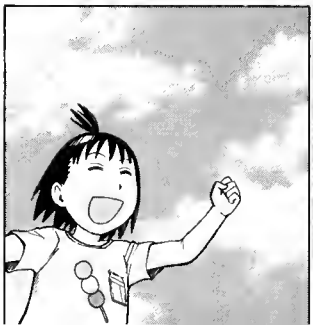


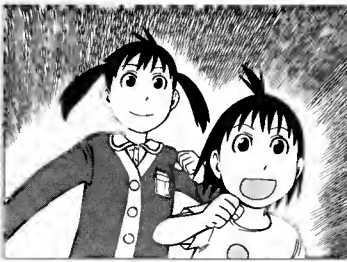
WE'RE HAVING CABBAGE ROLLS FOR DINNER!
MAN, I'M STARV-ING.

TIRE MOUN-TAIN!
A.K.A. T-MOUNT!!

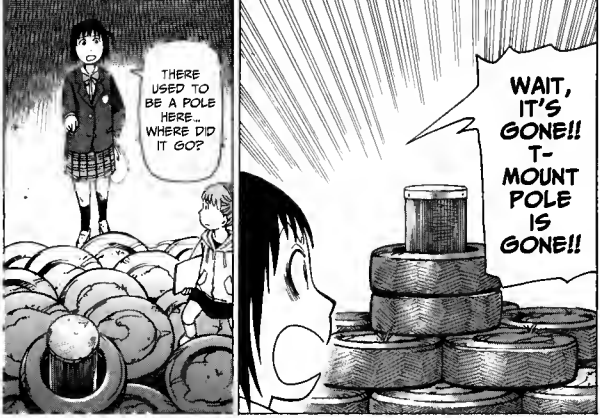

HUH? OVER THE IN THE CORNER OF THE COURT-YARD...

YUKI-KO!
LET'S GO CLIMB IT.
SURE!

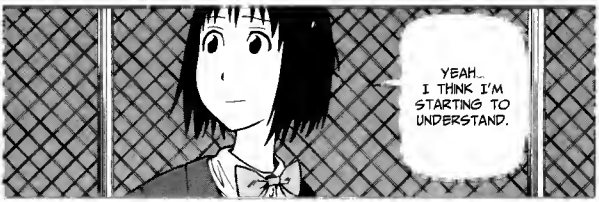




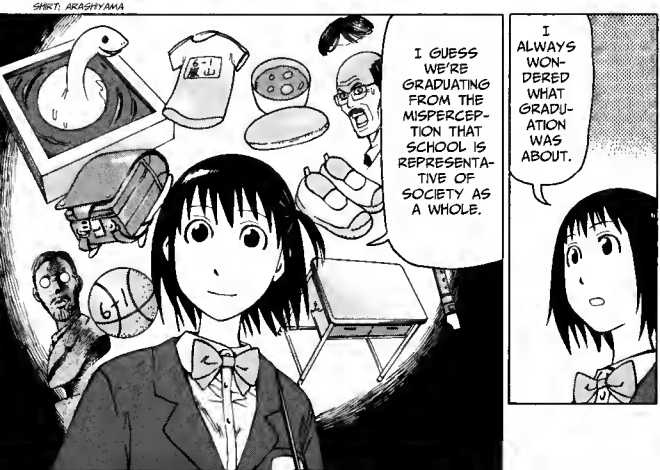
.....
NO WAY...
T-MOUNT WAS THIS SMALL...?
...WE USED TO RACE EACH OTHER TO THE TOP OF T-MOUNT POLE.


THERE USED TO BE A POLE HERE... WHERE DID IT GO?
WAIT, IT'S GONE!! T-MOUNT POLE IS GONE!!

ギッ SQUEAK
ギッ SQUEAK
SHE'S NO HELP. I'LL ASK TAKERU WHEN WE GET HOME.
POLE?


YEAH... I THINK I'M STARTING TO UNDERSTAND.

SHIRT: ARASHIYAMA



LYRICS ARE FROM AOGEBA TOUTOSHI, A SONG TRADITIONALLY SUNG FOR GRADUATION CEREMONIES IN JAPAN.

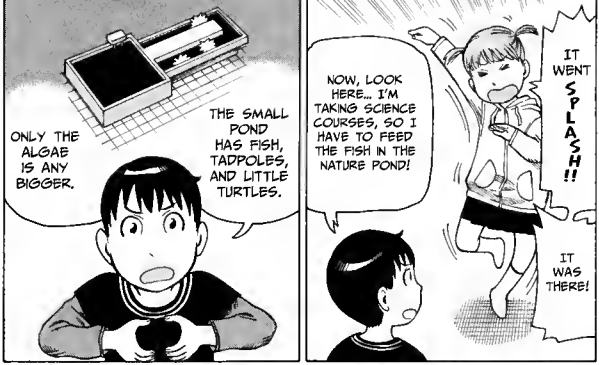
LIAR! THAT DOESN'T EXIST!
WE SAW IT! WE SAW MESSIE!!

WHY IS T-MOUNT POLE GONE?

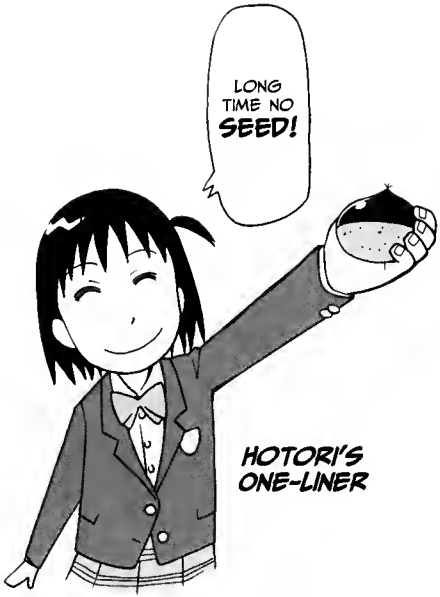
TAKERU, TAKERU.

SIS, YOU SAW MESSIE! RIGHT?

SOMEBODY GOT HURT WHILE PLAYING ON IT LAST YEAR, SO THEY CUT IT DOWN.
OH...
GRR! I FIGURED IT WAS SOMETHING LIKE THAT!


IT WENT SPLASH!!
IT WAS THERE!
NOW, LOOK HERE... I'M TAKING SCIENCE COURSES, SO I HAVE TO FEED THE FISH IN THE NATURE POND!
THE SMALL POND HAS FISH, TADPOLES, AND LITTLE TURTLES.
ONLY THE ALGAE IS ANY BIGGER.

CHAPTER 36 / END



HOTORI'S ONE-LINER

POOR GUY

BY ISHIGURO MASAKAZU

CHARACTERS

● POOR GUY

GUY POOR

A MIDDLE-AGED MAN WHO'S DOWN ON HIS LUCK.

● POOR KID

KID POOR

POOR GUY'S SON.

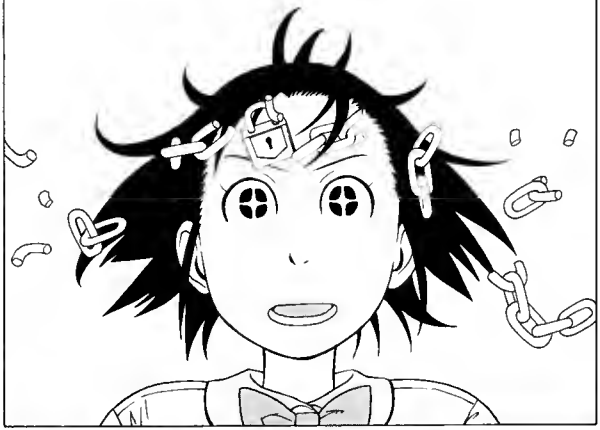
● RICH GUY

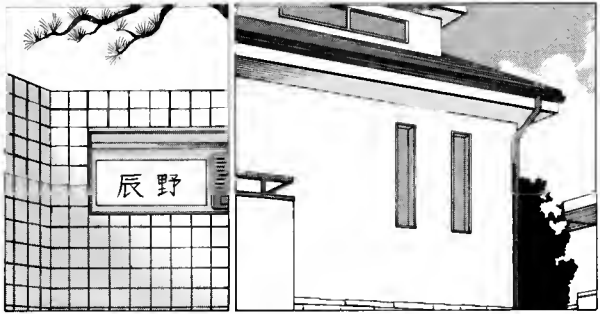
FREDDY RICH

THEIR RICH NEIGHBOR.

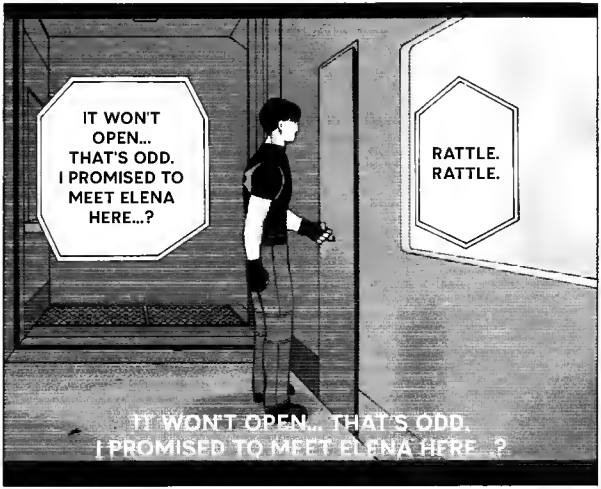
CHAPTER 37

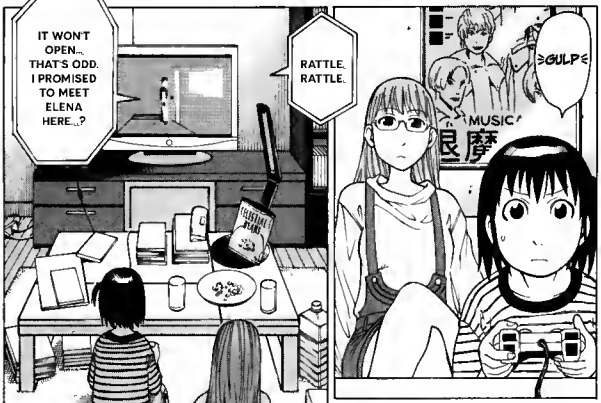
BRAIN CELL RESURRECTION





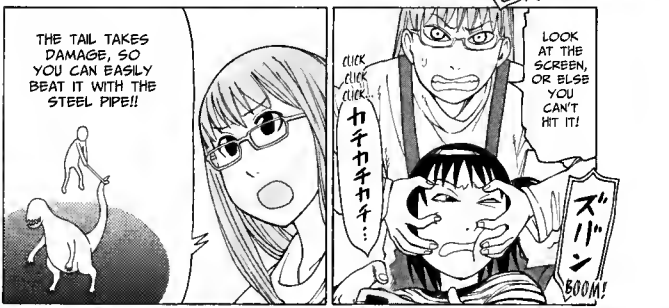
SIGN: TATSUNO


IT WON'T OPEN... THAT'S ODD. I PROMISED TO MEET ELENA HERE...?
RATTLE. RATTLE.
IT WON'T OPEN... THAT'S ODD. I PROMISED TO MEET ELENA HERE...?

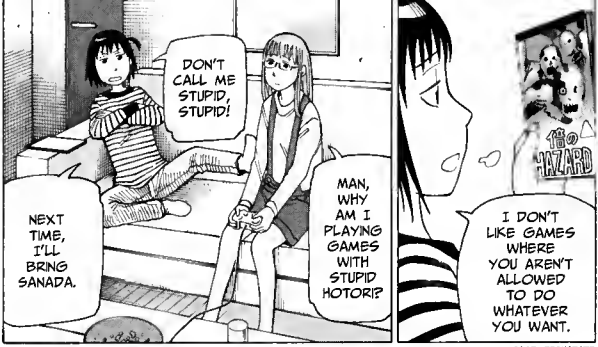

IT WON'T OPEN... THAT'S ODD. I PROMISED TO MEET ELENA HERE...?
RATTLE. RATTLE.
≥GULP≤
MUSIC

WHY DID YOU JUST FIRE YOUR GUN FOR NO REASON?! YOU'RE WASTING BULLETS!!
BANG!
ドン
HOW MANY TIMES ARE YOU GOING TO DO THAT?
IT WON'T OPEN... THAT'S ODD. I PROMISED TO MEET ELENA HERE...?
RATTLE. RATTLE.
YOU CAN'T BREAK IT! CHECKING IT ONCE TRIGGERS THE NEXT EVENT, SO MOVE ON!
I WANTED TO BREAK THE LOCK SO I COULD OPEN THE DOOR!
GROWL...
TRIG-GER...?
?

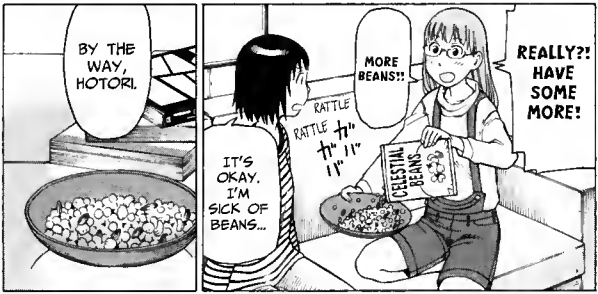
STUPID! YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO SAVE THE SHOTGUN FOR THE BOSS!!
BOOM!
ズバン
BOOM!
ズバン
WHOA! IT'S A MON-STER! GROSS!
ズバン
BOOM!


THE TAIL TAKES DAMAGE, SO YOU CAN EASILY BEAT IT WITH THE STEEL PIPE!!
CLICK CLICK CLICK...
カチカチカチ…
LOOK AT THE SCREEN, OR ELSE YOU CAN'T HIT IT!
ズバン
BOOM!

AHHH!
GAME OVER
AHH...
I'M GETTING ANNOYED BECAUSE YOU AREN'T MAKING ANY PROG-RESS!!
JUST LEAVE ME ALONE!! I CAN'T ENJOY THE GAME!!

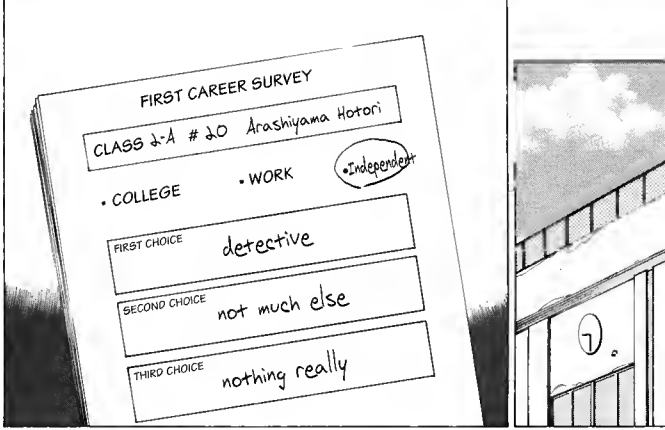

DON'T CALL ME STUPID, STUPID!
NEXT TIME, I'LL BRING SANADA.
MAN, WHY AM I PLAYING GAMES WITH STUPID HOTORI?
I DON'T LIKE GAMES WHERE YOU AREN'T ALLOWED TO DO WHATEVER YOU WANT.
BIOHAZARD

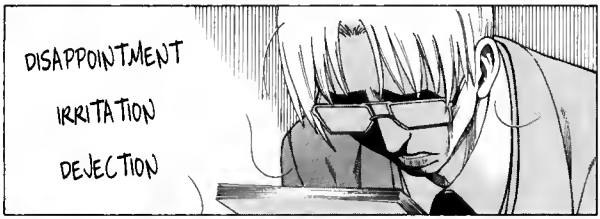
CASE: BIOHAZARD

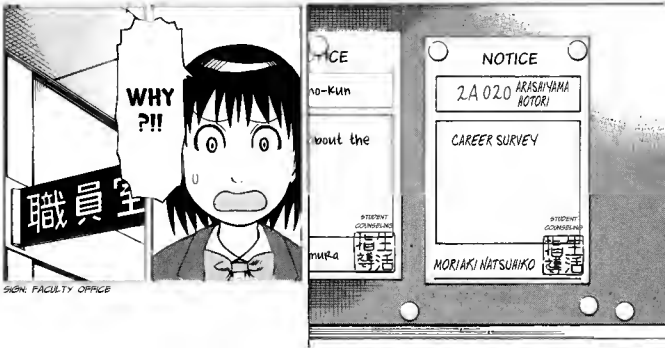


POSTER: TAIMA SENSEN

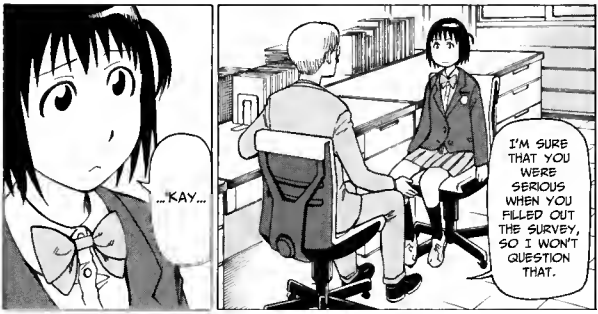
CRAP! I FORGOT. I NEED TO FILL IT OUT WHEN I GET HOME!
HUH? WHAT'S THAT?
MUSICAL
WHAT DID YOU PUT ON YOUR CAREER SURVEY? IT'S DUE TOMOR-ROW.

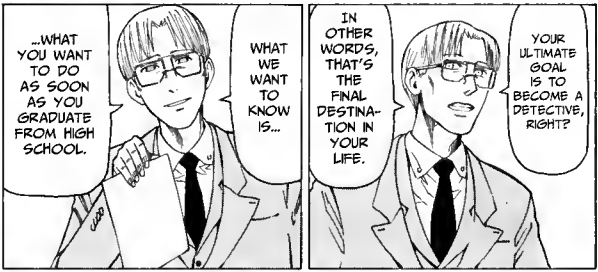






SIGN: FACULTY OFFICE


...KAY...
I'M SURE THAT YOU WERE SERIOUS WHEN YOU FILLED OUT THE SURVEY, SO I WON'T QUESTION THAT.


...WHAT YOU WANT TO DO AS SOON AS YOU GRADUATE FROM HIGH SCHOOL.
WHAT WE WANT TO KNOW IS...
IN OTHER WORDS, THAT'S THE FINAL DESTINATION IN YOUR LIFE.
YOUR ULTIMATE GOAL IS TO BECOME A DETECTIVE, RIGHT?

ONCE I GRADUATE, I'LL PROBABLY FIND WORK AS A DETECTIVE.
WELL, I'M GOING TO SPEND THE NEXT TWO YEARS SOLVING MYSTERIES AT THIS SCHOOL.

BOX: ANTACID

PACKET: ANTACID

IF YOU CHOOSE ONE OF THEM, YOU'LL BE GOING TO COLLEGE AT LEAST.
THERE ARE SPECIAL SCHOOLS FOR ASPIRING DETEC-TIVES.
I'VE DONE SOME RESEARCH.

KING-DOM OF MORI-AKI?!?!
IN THE KINGDOM OF MORIAKI, BECOMING A DETECTIVE MEANS THE SAME THING AS GOING TO COLLEGE!!
THAT'S TOO BAD.
MUMBLE
MUMBLE
MUMBLE
I SEE... IN THE KINGDOM OF MORIAKI, IT'S OKAY... I DON'T NEED TO WORRY. BECAUSE THIS IS THE KINGDOM OF MORIAKI.
THIS IS BAD. MORIAKI IS GOING INSANE! AND I THINK IT'S MY FAULT... I SHOULD RETREAT...
YIKES!
KINGDOM OF MORIAKI... MUST BE A MONAR-CHY...
SURE. I UNDER-STAND.
I'LL GIVE YOU A COUPLE OF DAYS, SO TALK IT OVER WITH YOUR PARENTS.

NEOOOOW
ギャギャギャ
drow the one's Sword and fight it out!!!!
347
ドドダダダ!!
POUND POUND POUND
101
紺 伝助
ドドド

I'M GUESSING.
...THEY CAN PROBABLY FIX THAT?
SLUMP
ガ"ク
ISN'T HE GOING TO BEAT A HOLE IN THE DRUM?
I LIKED THE NINTH SONG YOU PLAYED.
THAT'S NOT TRUE.
LOOKS LIKE WE DON'T SHARE THE SAME TASTE IN MUSIC.
THE NINTH SONG WAS... HERE. THE FIRST SONG ON THIS CD.
OH!
YOU'RE JUST MAKING STUFF UP.
NINTH SONG...? I DON'T REMEMBER WHICH ONE THAT WAS.

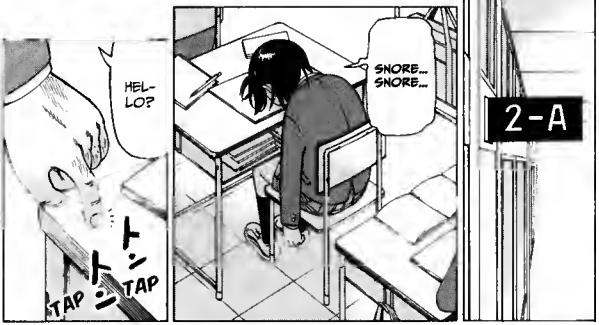
UM.
SO... WHICH WAS THE SECOND SONG I PLAYED?
HUH?
WOW, YOU ACTUALLY REMEMBERED WHICH SONG IT WAS!
THIS ONE SOUNDED LIKE A POLICE SIREN.
THIS ONE WAS ALL BWOW-CHCKA-BWOW.
THIS ONE.
THEN... WHAT WAS THE ELEVENTH?
NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT...
MOST PEOPLE WOULD HAVE FORGOTTEN ALREADY!!
CRAZY—!! YOUR MEMORY IS PERFECT!

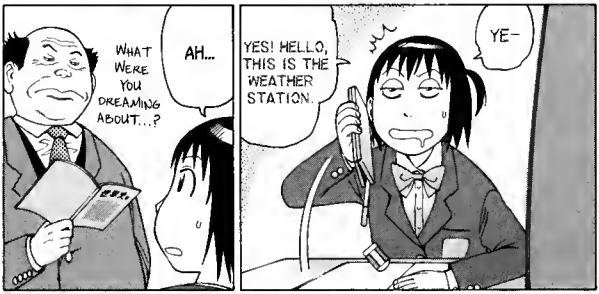
I HAVE TROUBLE REMEMBERING THINGS, BUT WHEN I'M ACTUALLY TRYING TO MEMORIZE SOMETHING...
AH ....!!
COME TO THINK OF IT, I TRY HARD TO PAY ATTENTION DURING MATH, BUT I KEEP GETTING BETTER GRADES IN ALL MY OTHER SUBJECTS!!
SO YOU'RE DUMB, UNLESS YOU'RE NOT PAYING ATTENTION?!
NO... I USUALLY DO PRETTY WELL IN EVERY SUBJECT THAT ISN'T MATH.
HEY... HOLD ON...
うたでおぼえる 日本の歴史♪
WHY DON'T YOU PLAY THIS WHEN YOU GO TO SLEEP TONIGHT?

CD: LEARN JAPANESE HISTORY THROUGH MUSIC

"LEARN JAPANESE HISTORY THROUGH MUSIC"?
MY DADDY... DAD USED TO...
- SUB-SCRIBE TO THE WHOLE SLEEP LEARNING THING. BUT IT DIDN'T DO ANYTHING.
BUT IF YOU CAN MEMORIZE ALL OF THIS WHILE ASLEEP...
OH!
YOU'RE RIGHT... THIS MAY BE MY CHANCE TO REVERSE 16 YEARS OF BEING CALLED AN IDIOT!!
IF IT WORKS, YOU CAN GET INTO THE UNIVERSITY OF TOKYO BY SLEEPING!
I'VE GOT IT! I'LL PUT ON THE SURVEY THAT I WANT TO GO TO THE UNIVERSITY OF TOKYO!
THE KINGDOM OF MORIAKI WILL HAVE PEACE!
I WAS HOPING TO GO TO THE SAME COLLEGE AS YOU...
BUT GOOD LUCK, GENIUS.
SEN-PAI!!

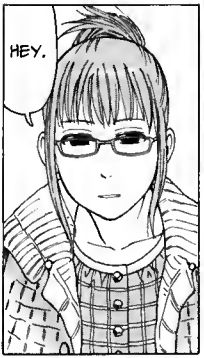
UGH...
CHIRP
チュン
CHIRP
チュン
THAT NIGHT, HOTORI LISTENED TO LEARN JAPANESE HISTORY THROUGH MUSIC WHILE SLEEPING.
I COULDN'T SLEEP BECAUSE OF ALL THE NOISE...
I CAN'T REMEMBER A THING.
...KILL THE NIGHTIN-GALE...
UM... 794...
?
?

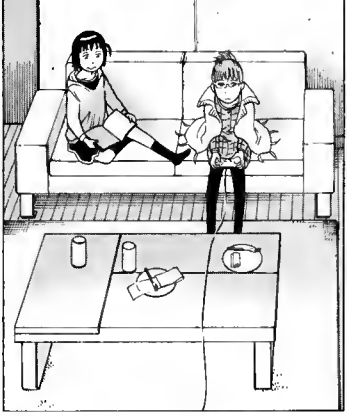




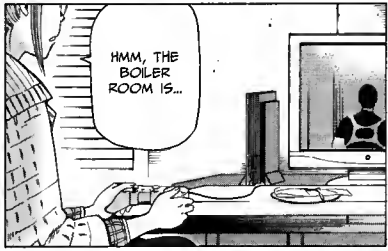
BOOK: WORLD HISTORY

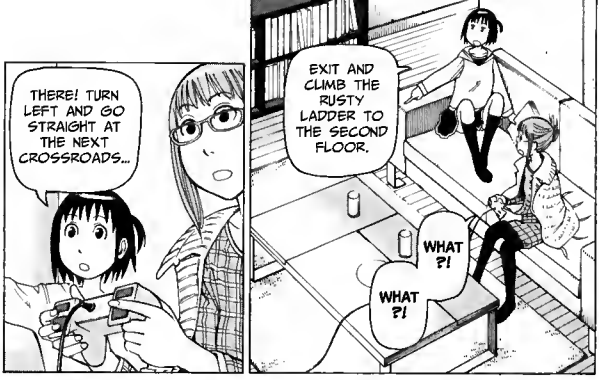
AHAHAHA! AHAHAHA!
GRRRRRR...
I HEARD THAT YOU GAVE MR. MORIAKI A HEADACHE.
DON'T YOU WANT TO GO TO THE UNIVERSITY OF TOKYO? YOU SHOULDN'T BE SLEEPING IN CLASS.





MAGAZINE: SHOUNEN GAMAN





CHAPTER 37 / END

SCREEN: STRAWBERRY (STRAWBERRY)
STRAWBERRY OMELET RICE

CHAPTER 88
WE AREN'T MACHINES!

BUILDING: KAWAI APARTMENT

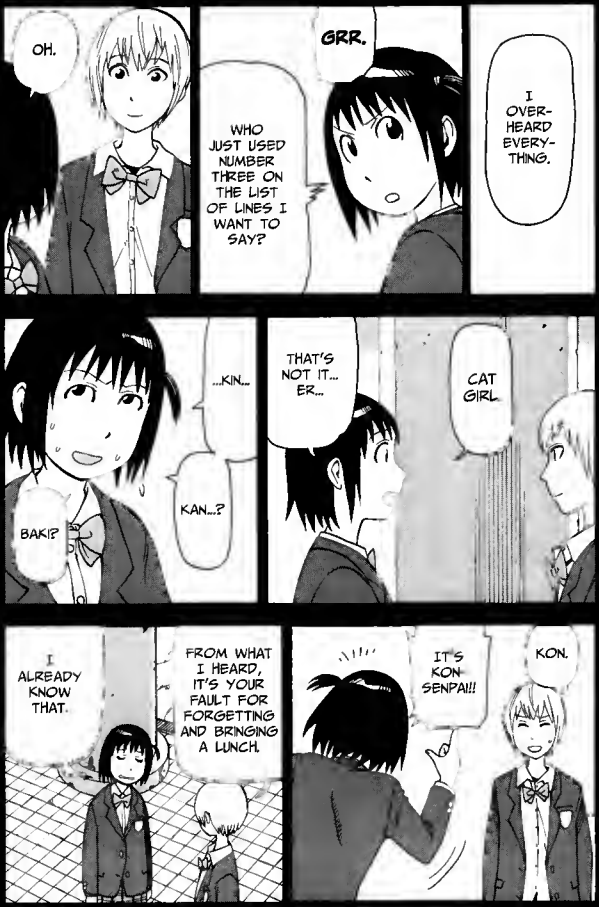
SHIRT: ECHIZEN CRAB

HUH?
SLAM
WHOA—! WHO ARE YOU—?!
WHAT DID YOU DO TO KON-SENPAI —?!

2-A
HUH?
MY CHAIR'S GONE.
OH...SORRY. I THOUGHT YOU WENT TO THE CAFETERIA...
ガタッ
CLATTER

OH, IT'S OKAY.
USE IT.
SCAAARY! I THOUGHT SHE WAS GONNA PUNCH ME!
NO NEED TO THROW A HISSY FIT OVER A CHAIR.
.....
I CAN HEAR YOU!
I'M NOT ANGRY OR ANY-THING...
NOBODY KNOWS WHAT SHE'S THINKING!
SHE ALWAYS LOOKS ANGRY...

HOLD ON. CAN'T YOU JUST BUY A SANDWICH TODAY?
YOU'RE SO SELFISH.
WHY WOULD YOU BRING A LUNCH WHEN WE WERE PLANNING ON GOING TO THE CAFETERIA?!
I KNOW. YOU CAN EAT YOUR LUNCH IN THE CAFETERIA
NO WAY...! IT'S PACKED, AND EVERYONE WILL GIVE ME NASTY LOOKS!
TSK. IF YOU BRING A LUNCH, EAT IN THE CLASSROOM
I'M SORRY!
ガン WHACK
I SEE.
SNIFF
ぽつん
HEARTLESS BASTARDS...


I OVER-HEARD EVERY-THING.
GRR.
WHO JUST USED NUMBER THREE ON THE LIST OF LINES I WANT TO SAY?
OH.
CAT GIRL
THAT'S NOT IT... ER...
...KIN...
KAN...?
BAKI?
KON.
IT'S KON-SENPAI!!
FROM WHAT I HEARD, IT'S YOUR FAULT FOR FORGETTING AND BRINGING A LUNCH.
I ALREADY KNOW THAT.

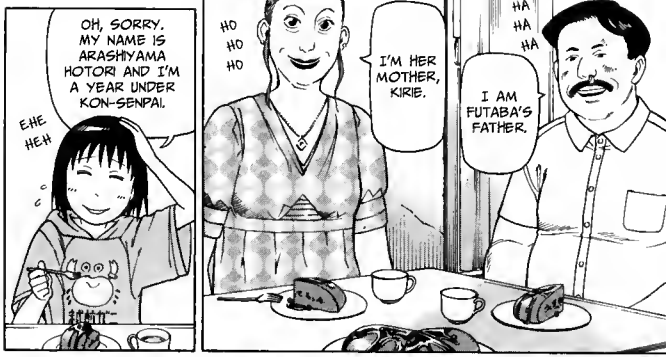
I HAVE AN IDEA.
WHERE DO YOU WANT TO EAT?
IF WE EAT IN ONE OF OUR CLASSROOMS, IT'LL BE KIND OF AWKWARD.
FOR THE OTHER PERSON.
I'LL EAT LUNCH WITH YOU.
YAY!
THAT'S A SECRET.
OH! WHY DO YOU HAVE SUCH A RARE ITEM?!
THE KEY TO THE ROOF.
ピュウウウ
HOOOW
CLANG
ガチン

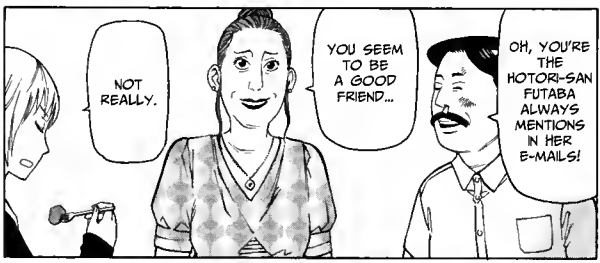
IT'S PRETTY NICE WHEN THE SUN'S OUT, THOUGH.
PITY.
THIS WON'T WORK. LET'S EAT ON THE LANDING.
IT'S FREEZ-ING.!!
TEA: DEW FLAVOR
YOU HAVE A NUMBER ONE AND TWO?
I SURE DO...
YOU SAID SOMETHING ABOUT "NUMBER THREE" ON THE LIST OF LINES YOU WANT TO SAY...
"WE AREN'T MA-CHINES !!"
HAHAHA! WHEN ARE YOU GOING TO USE THAT?
SNORT
"IS THE SKY BLUE?" IS ALSO GOOD... BUT NUMBER ONE HAS TO BE...
"I'LL GET YOU FOR THIS!" IS UP THERE.

OH... SHE'LL BE EATING WITH THEM TOMORROW.
IF IT'S SUNNY, LET'S EAT ON THE ROO—
...TO-MOR-ROW.
DING DONG キーンコーン カーン
SEE YOU LATER!
IT WAS FUN.
BOW
SENPAI, THANK YOU FOR EATING LUNCH WITH ME TODAY.
TOO MUCH SMILING... MY FACE HURTS.
.....
.....

SUMMER PUDDING: A BRITISH PUDDING MADE WITH BREAD SOAKED IN FRUIT JUICE. IT IS VIBRANT RED IN COLOR.

NOT REALLY A FAMILY REUNION.


OH, SORRY. MY NAME IS ARASHIYAMA HOTORI AND I'M A YEAR UNDER KON-SENPAI.
E-HE HE-H
HO HO HO
I'M HER MOTHER, KIRIE.
HA HA HA
I AM FUTABA'S FATHER.


NOT REALLY.
YOU SEEM TO BE A GOOD FRIEND...
OH, YOU'RE THE HOTORI-SAN FUTABA ALWAYS MENTIONS IN HER E-MAILS!

HEY, MOM-M—
DON'T SAY WEIRD STUFF.

I'M SURE YOU'VE NOTICED WHAT A BABY SHE IS, RIGHT?
HUH... KON-SEN-PAI?!

WHENEVER SHE WENT ON A SCHOOL TRIP IN GRADE SCHOOL...
TODAY, I BOUGHT SOUVENIRS FOR MOMMY AND DADDY.
I WANT TO GO HOME...
SNIFF
SNIFF
...SHE'D CALL US FROM THE HOTEL. HO HO HO HO HO HO.
AHA-HAHA.
SLAM
?
IS YOUR MEMORY GONE?
...ALL... ALL GONE...
ポムプキ
POW!

IT'S YOUR FAULT FOR TALKING TOO MUCH, MOMMY!!
WHAT A TERRIBLE THING TO DO...

LEAVE!!
OKAY.

MOST PEOPLE WOULD HAVE RUN AWAY.
SHE ATTACKED A STRANGE MAN WHO WAS HOLDING A KNIFE FOR YOUR SAKE.

FUTABA, YOU SHOULD TREAT YOUR FRIENDS WELL.

SHE ALWAYS ACTS BEFORE THINKING.

.....

TAKE SOME TIME TO THINK ABOUT WHETHER YOU WANT TO GO TO COLLEGE IN JAPAN OR COME TO ENGLAND AFTER YOU GRADUATE.
TOKYO EXPRESS MARUKO STATION
東京急行
丸子駅
MARUKO STATION
WELL, FUTABA.
連面台方面の
HASUMODAI
YOU LOOK MORE CHEERFUL THAN I EXPECTED.
I CAN'T SPEAK ENGLISH ...
ARE YOU HAVING FUN IN SCHOOL?
WILL YOU BE OKAY BY YOURSELF A LITTLE LONGER?

PACKAGES: CALORIE FRIEND: EGGPLANT FLAVOR, TOMATO LIFE

.....
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
.....

GROWL
グー
(STOMACH)
THAT'S MY LINE!!
YOU SAID THAT WE WOULD EAT ON THE ROOF IF IT WAS SUNNY TOMOR-ROW...
...SO I WAS WAITING FOR YOU!
HUH... ...ER...
SORRY, I ALREADY ATE LUNCH...
WHAT'S THAT?!

I'LL WATCH YOU EAT, SO GO AHEAD.
WHAAAAT?!
FORGET IT. I'LL EAT IN THE CLASS-ROOM
AH.
THEN ...
THEN ...
THEN TO-MOR-ROW!
LET'S EAT TOGETHER TOMOR-ROW.
WE DON'T HAVE SCHOOL TOMOR-ROW.
DO YOU ALSO HAVE THE KEY TO THE SCHOOL ...?
MONDAY ON MONDAY!
ACTU-ALLY...

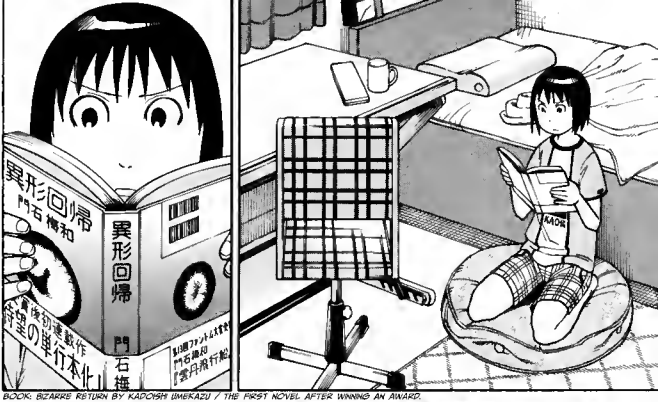
CHAPTER 38 / END

KON-SENPAI'S LUNCH
● TUNA SANDWICH AND VEGETABLE JUICE
● HEALTH BAR AND TOMATO JUICE
TOMATO LIFE
トマト人生
カロリーアミーゴ
CALORIE FRIEND
野菜コロジー
VEGGICOLOGY
ALTERNATE BETWEEN...
YOU NEED TO EAT MORE!!
YEAH, YEAH...

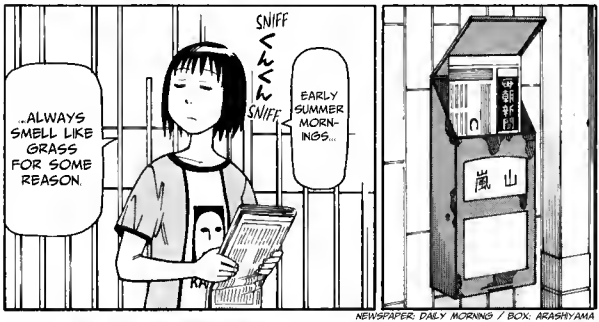
A DAY IN HOTORI'S LIFE

SHE BOUGHT A BOOK, BUT WHEN SHE GOT HOME, SHE DISCOVERED THAT SHE ALREADY HAD IT.

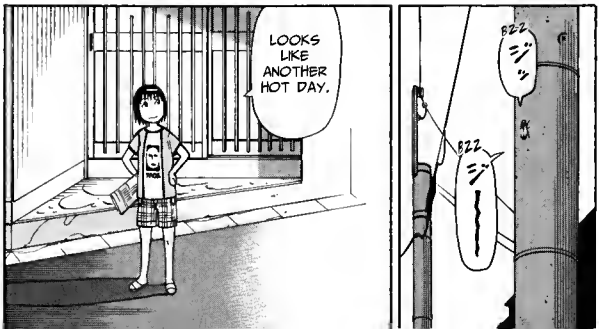
CHAPTER 39
NOVEL BETWEEN DREAM AND REALITY
DREAM
REALITY
夢
現



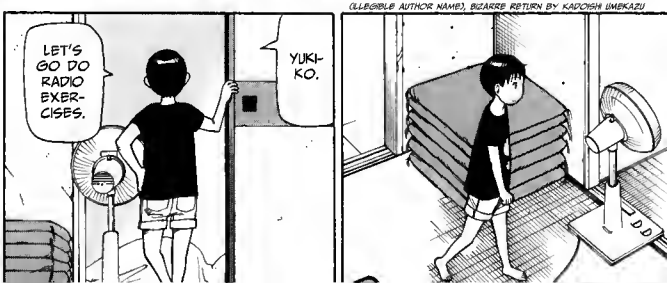
BOOK: BIZARRE RETURN BY KADOISHI UMEKAZU / THE FIRST NOVEL AFTER WINNING AN AWARD.
A LONG-AWAITED MASTERPIECE! / 13TH PHANTOM AWARD / KADOISHI UMEKAZU / SEA URCHIN AIRSHIP



NEWSPAPER: DAILY MORNING / BOX: ARASHIYAMA

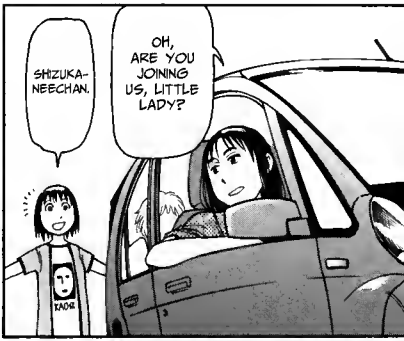


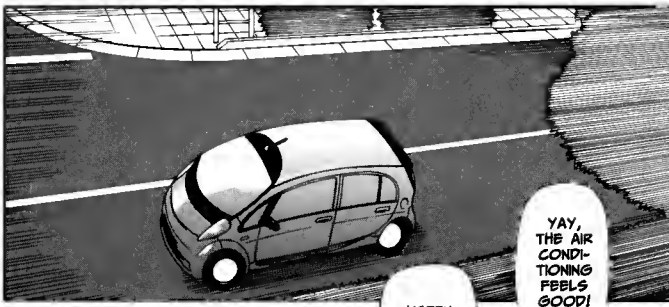
NEWSPAPER: ...REMAINS UNCLEAR / RELEASED TODAY: BANANA MONSTER BY (ILLEGIBLE AUTHOR NAME), BIZARRE RETURN BY KADOISHI UMEKAZU

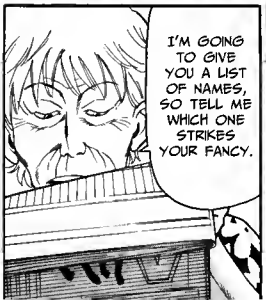


AND I DIDN'T GET ENOUGH SLEEEEEP ...
YAAAAWN. IT'S SO HOT...
DO WE HAVE A CUSTOMER FROM FAR AWAY?!
THERE'S A CAR PARKED IN FRONT OF SEASIDE.
OH.
YOU DON'T NEED TO WORK TODAY.
OH, IT'S GRAN?
HOTORI, PERFECT TIMING.

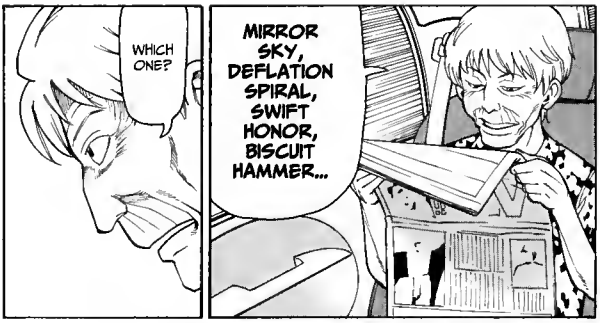
SO THIS IS SHIZUKA-SAN'S CAR.
HEY, DON'T BANG ON THE ROOF. THAT'S ANNOYING.

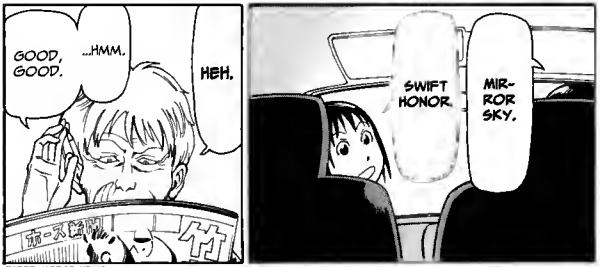

SHIZUKA-NEECHAN.
OH, ARE YOU JOINING US, LITTLE LADY?
TADA


YAY, THE AIR CONDI-TIONING FEELS GOOD!

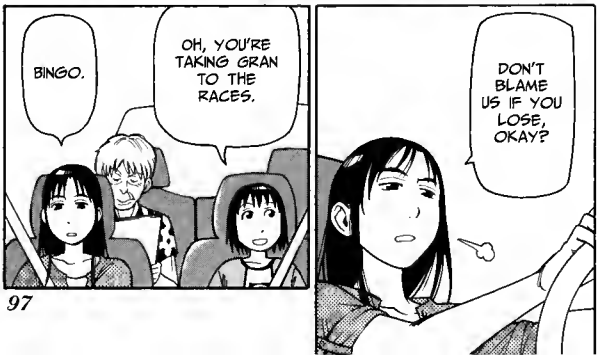

I'M GOING TO GIVE YOU A LIST OF NAMES, SO TELL ME WHICH ONE STRIKES YOUR FANCY.

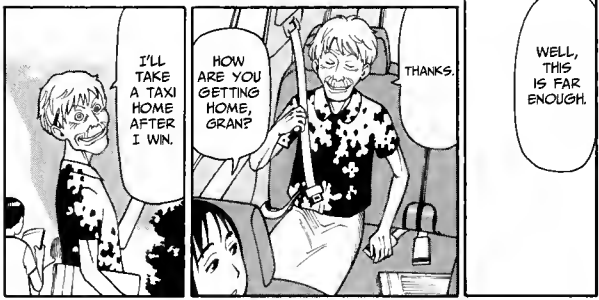
LISTEN TO ME, GIRLS.



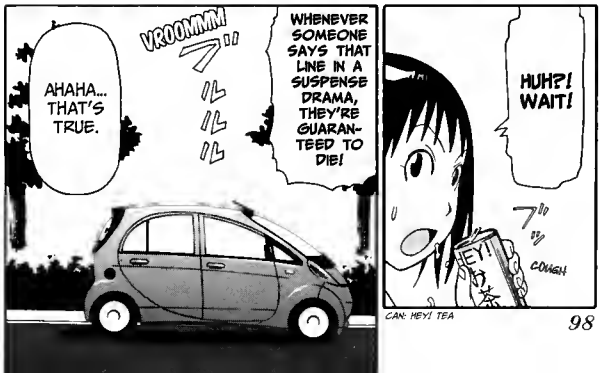


PAPER HORSE NEWS

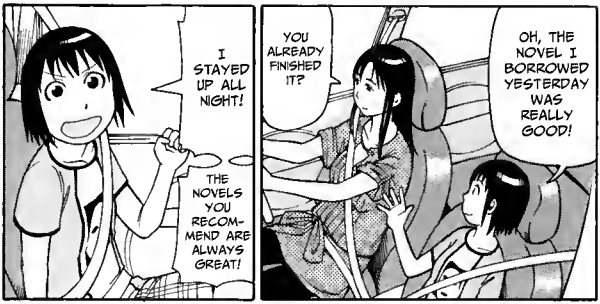



I'LL TAKE A TAXI HOME AFTER I WIN.
HOW ARE YOU GETTING HOME, GRAN?
THANKS.
WELL, THIS IS FAR ENOUGH.

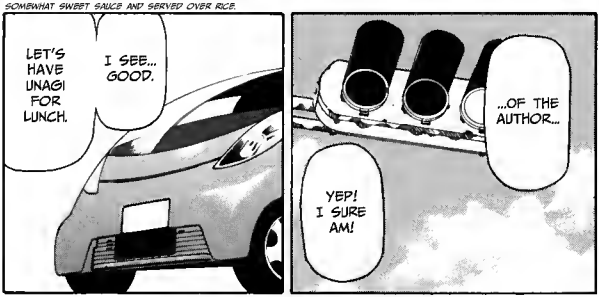
I'M EXPECTING A SIZABLE WINDFALL SOON...
YEAH...
I DON'T MIND.
IT CAN'T BE EASY MAKING THIS DRIVE WHEN GAS IS SO EXPENSIVE.


VROOMMM
AHAHA... THAT'S TRUE.
WHENEVER SOMEONE SAYS THAT LINE IN A SUSPENSE DRAMA, THEY'RE GUARANTEED TO DIE!
HUH?! WAIT!
HEY!
COUGH

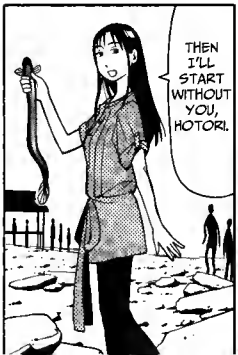
CAN: HEY! TEA

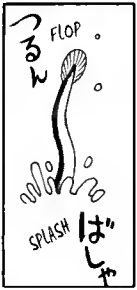

OH, THE NOVEL I BORROWED YESTERDAY WAS REALLY GOOD!
YOU ALREADY FINISHED IT?
I STAYED UP ALL NIGHT!
THE NOVELS YOU RECOMMEND ARE ALWAYS GREAT!

UNAGI: A FRESHWATER EEL, USUALLY BROILED WITH A SOMEWHAT SWEET SAUCE AND SERVED OVER RICE.

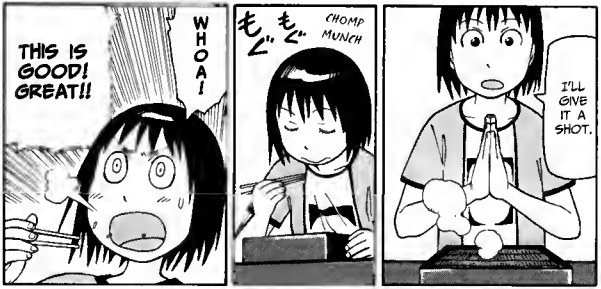


SIGN: UNAGI UNAGI





I'M HUN-GRY—
≫SOB≪ WAIT FOR ME!!
UGH—!?
HEY, WE'RE HERE.
うな義
SIGN: UNAGI
I HAD A WEIRD DREAM ABOUT UNAGI...
WHEN DID I FALL ASLEEP?
UGH?



CLOTHING: UNAGI

ANAGO: A SALT-WATER EEL, USUALLY EATEN SIMMERED OR DEEP-FRIED

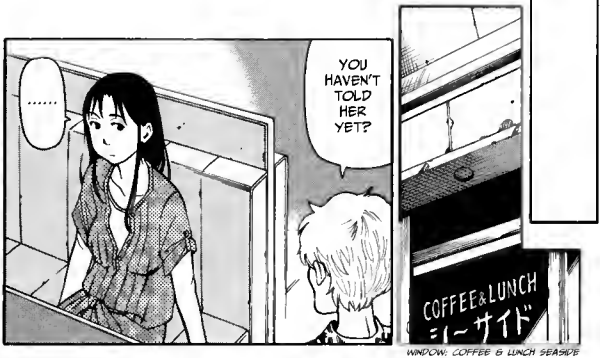
THEY DON'T EVEN LOOK ALIKE...
YEAH... YOU CAN SWAP ANAGO FOR UNAGI...
CAN'T YOU SAY SOMETHING MORE FLATTERING?
UNAGI AND ANAGO ARE COMPLETELY DIFFERENT.
HEH.
I WANT TO BE A DETECTIVE, BUT I ALSO WANT TO BE AN AUTHOR.
YOU LAUGHED AT ME!
.....
IF YOU WORK HARD, YOU CAN BECOME ONE.

HOTORI, ARE YOU HAVING FUN EVERY DAY?
WHY?
I SURE AM.
HUH?
YOU WANT ME TO EXPLAIN WHY...?
LIKE YOUR JELLY ISLAND
YOU HAVE TO WRITE ABOUT MORE THAN CRAZY IDEAS.
THAT'S WHAT IT MEANS TO BE AN AUTHOR.

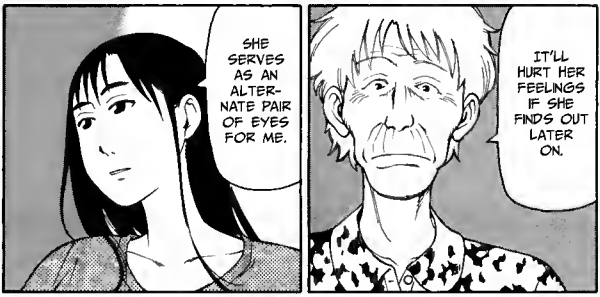
.....
OHH... I GET IT...
KAO
SHIZUKA-NEECHAN IS SO STRANGE.
I DOUBT ANTIQUE SHOPS MAKE MUCH MONEY...
BUT SHE EATS UNAGI AND OWNS A CAR... SHE MUST BE HIDING A SECRET.

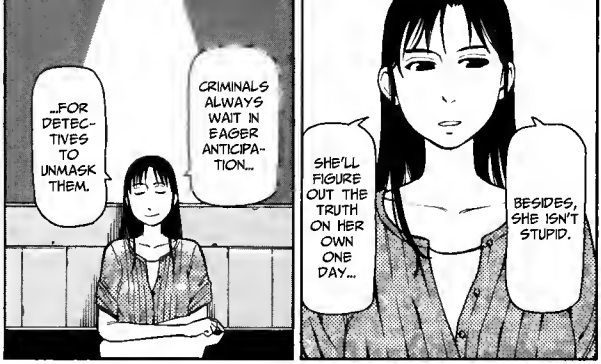
ACTU-
ALLY...
HO-
TORI.
WHAT
?!
...I
ACTUALLY
HAVE A
SECRET
SECOND
JOB.
COULD
IT
BE?
ARE
YOU
A...
...DE-
TEC—

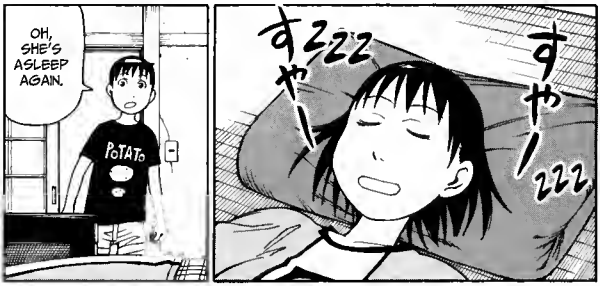
OW.
....?
A DREAM ...?
ゴチ
CLUNK
-TIVE?
ARE YOU OKAY? THAT WAS A LOUD NOISE.
HUH?
HUH?
I WENT BACK IN TIME?!
WHOA! GRAN?!
WHICH PART WAS A DREAM?!
HUH?!
HMM? WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
HOW WAS THE RACE?

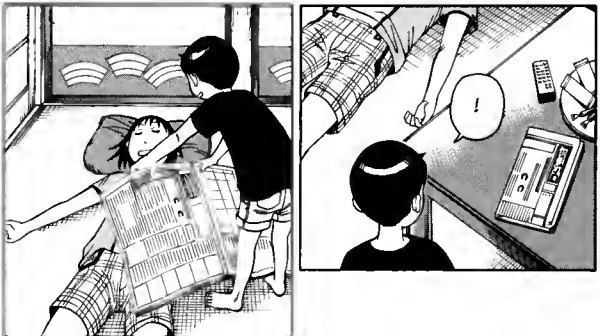


WINDOW: COFFEE & LUNCH SEASIDE




...FOR DETEC-TIVES TO UNMASK THEM.
CRIMINALS ALWAYS WAIT IN EAGER ANTICIPA-TION...
SHE'LL FIGURE OUT THE TRUTH ON HER OWN ONE DAY...
BESIDES, SHE ISN'T STUPID.


OH, SHE'S ASLEEP AGAIN.
POTATO
すやー222
すやー222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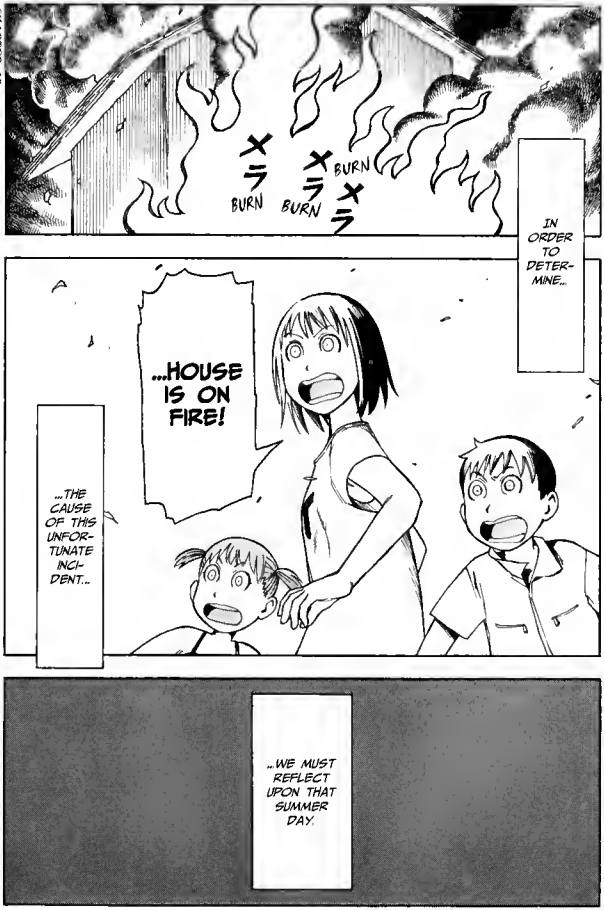
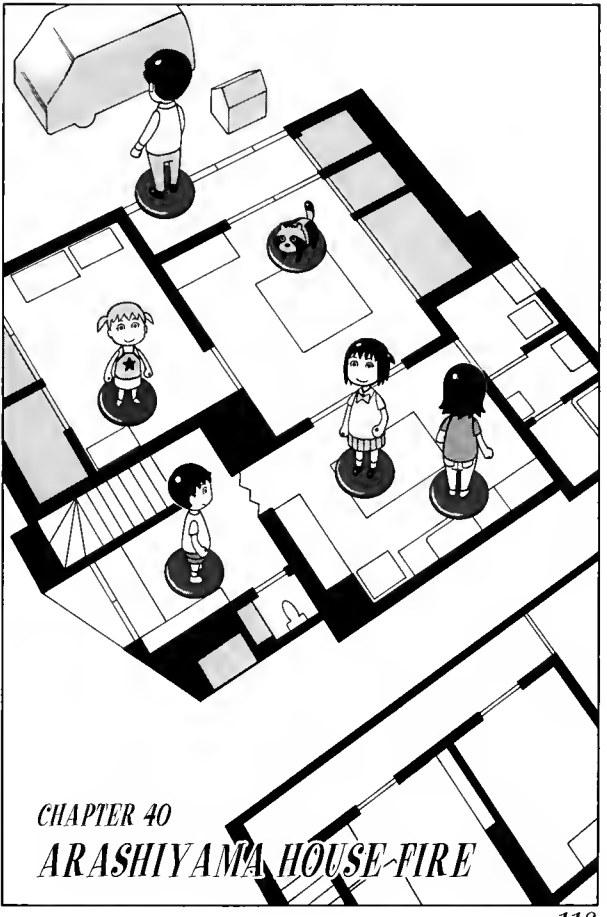
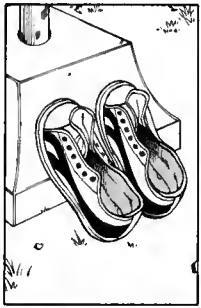
CHAPTER 39 / END

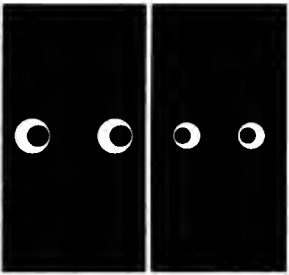

メラ
BURN
メラ
BURN
メラ
BURN
IN ORDER TO DETERMINE...
...HOUSE IS ON FIRE!
...THE CAUSE OF THIS UNFORTUNATE INCIDENT...
...WE MUST REFLECT UPON THAT SUMMER DAY.



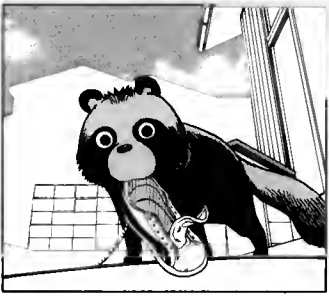
CHAPTER 40
ARASHIYAMA HOUSE-FIRE

BRUSH
ゴシ
BRUSH
ゴシ
WHEW!
IT'S SPARKLING CLEAN NOW.
RATTLE
ガラリ
THERE SHOULD BE PLENTY OF SUN HERE.





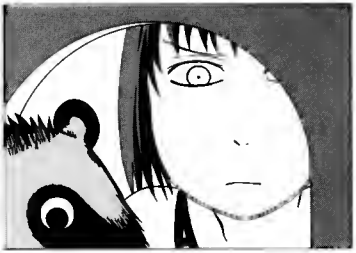
HOUSE: JOSEPHINE

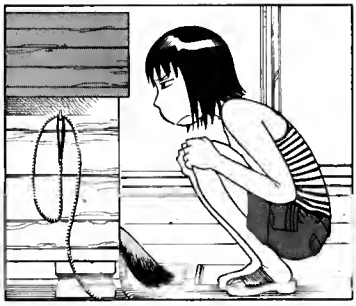


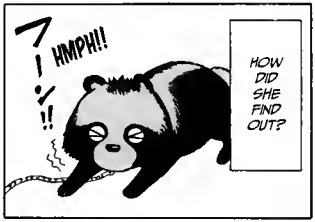
ADDED TO MY COLLEC-TION!!

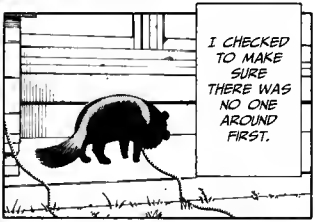
A FINE SPECI-MEN.

HEY, FUR-BALL!
YOU CAN'T DO THAT!!
WHINE
フーン
WHINE
フー!ン

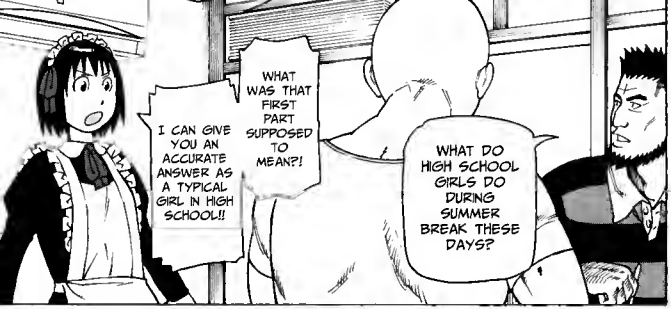


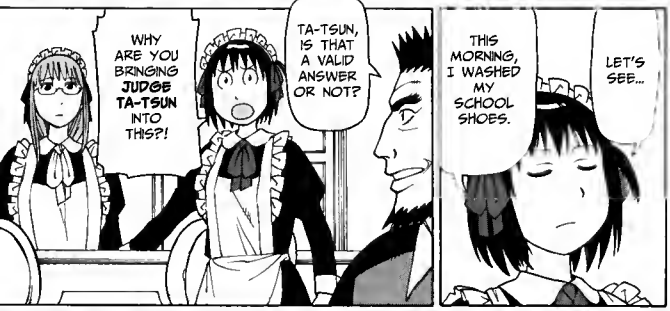


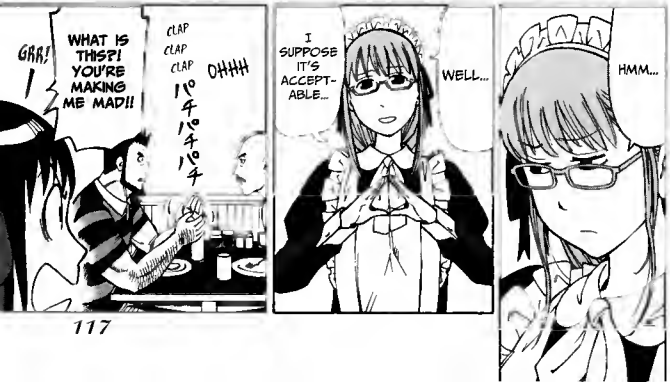


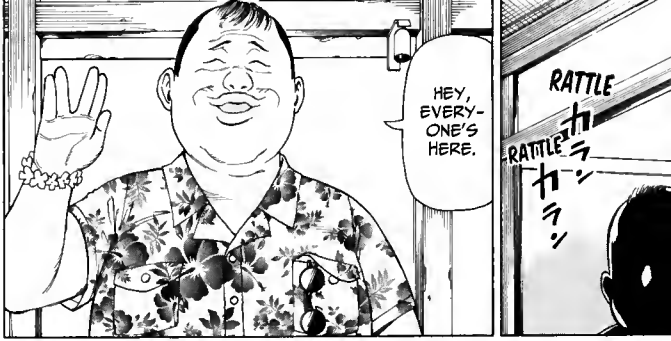


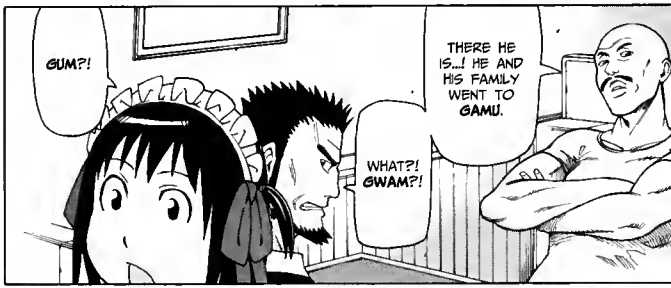
POSTER: LUNCHTIME COFFEE 150 YEN

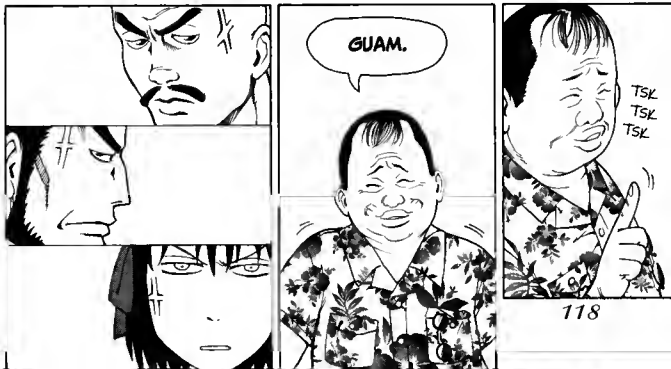

WHAT DO HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS DO DURING SUMMER BREAK THESE DAYS?
WHAT WAS THAT FIRST PART SUPPOSED TO MEAN?!
I CAN GIVE YOU AN ACCURATE ANSWER AS A TYPICAL GIRL IN HIGH SCHOOL!!


LET'S SEE...
THIS MORNING, I WASHED MY SCHOOL SHOES.
TA-TSUN, IS THAT A VALID ANSWER OR NOT?
WHY ARE YOU BRINGING JUDGE TA-TSUN INTO THIS?!


HMM...
WELL...
I SUPPOSE IT'S ACCEPT-ABLE...
OHHH
CLAP CLAP CLAP
パチパチパチ
WHAT IS THIS?! YOU'RE MAKING ME MAD!!
GRR!


HEY, EVERY-ONE'S HERE.
RATTLE
RATTLE
カラン
カラン


GUM?!
THERE HE IS...! HE AND HIS FAMILY WENT TO GAMU.
WHAT?! GWAM?!


GUAM.
TSK TSK TSK

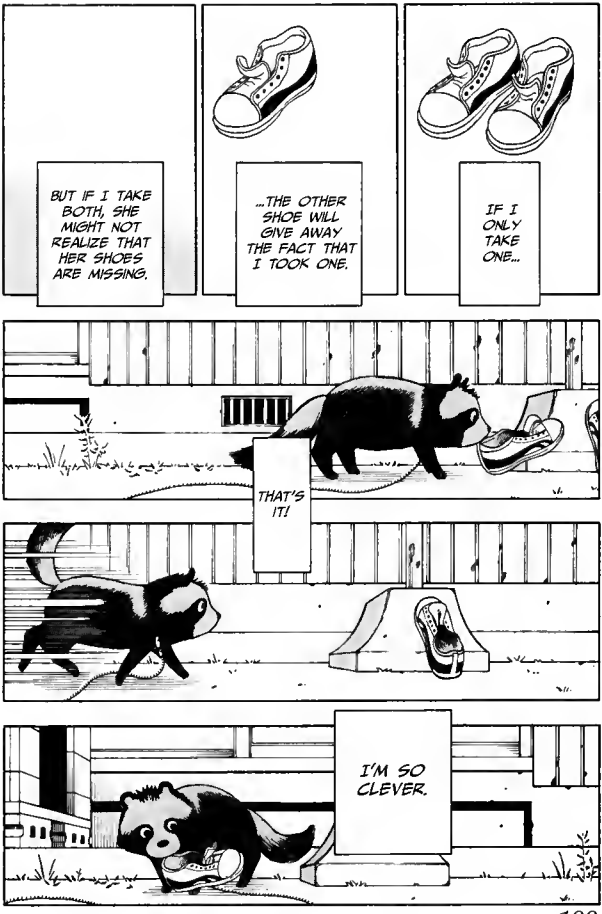
PACKAGES: SPARKLERS/ FIREWORKS PACK / A MAN'S EXPLOSION / FIREWORKS PACK

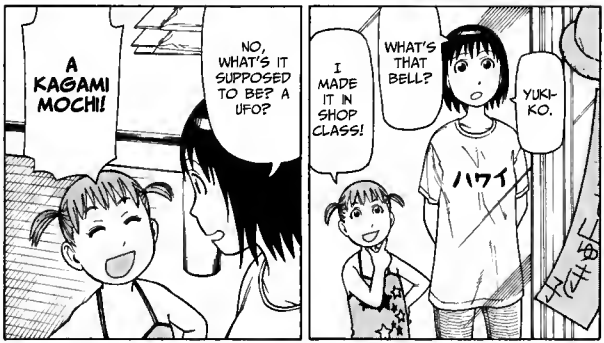
MARILYN OWNS THE CLOTHING STORE.

SHIRT: HAWAII

.....
SO YOU SCROUNGED SOME SOUVENIRS ON YOUR WAY OVER HERE.
YOU HAD SO MUCH FUN THAT YOU COMPLETELY FORGOT ABOUT US.
YOU BOYS ARE SHARP ...!
DID THEY ARRANGE THAT LITTLE SEQUENCE TO AVOID PAYING THE BILL...?!
HEY, THEY LEFT WITHOUT PAYING.
WAIT UP, KOBU-HEI!!
BAS-TARD!

WAS SHE WATCHING ME FROM SOME-WHERE?
ジョセフィ
HOW DID SHE FIND OUT?
I DON'T KNOW.
!!

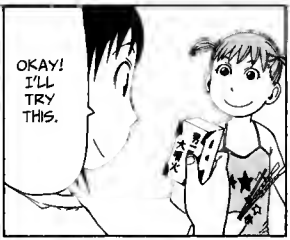

IF I ONLY TAKE ONE...
...THE OTHER SHOE WILL GIVE AWAY THE FACT THAT I TOOK ONE.
BUT IF I TAKE BOTH, SHE MIGHT NOT REALIZE THAT HER SHOES ARE MISSING.
THAT'S IT!
I'M SO CLEVER.



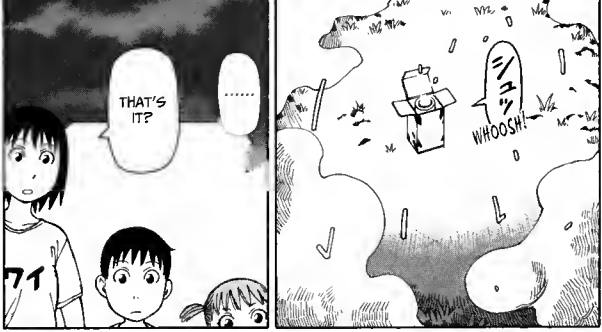
BELL: 2-1 ARASHIYAMA YUKIKO

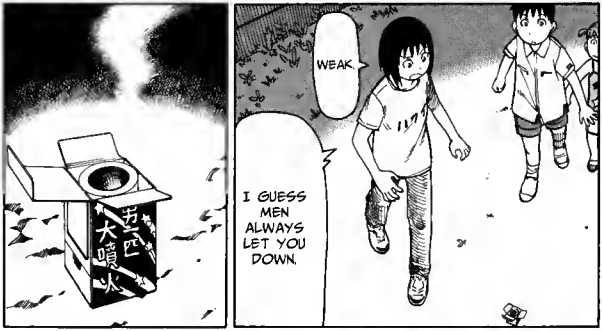
KAGAMI MOCHI, TRADITIONALLY DISPLAYED AT THE NEW YEAR, IS MADE OF TWO STACKED MOCHI (RICECAKES) TOPPED WITH AN ORANGE.

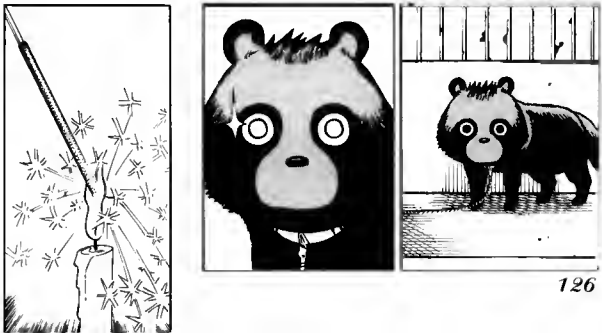
SIS, WHAT ARE THESE FIRE-WORKS?
YOU MIGHT FIND IT HARD TO BELIEVE, BUT THEY'RE SOUVENIRS FROM A SOUTHERN ISLAND.
WANT 'EM?
MOM!
I'M GOING TO BORROW THE BUCKET SO WE CAN USE FIRE-WORKS IN THE YARD.
TAP
ポン
ハワイ
ポン
TAP
HOTOR!
IF YOU'RE GOING TO PLAY WITH FIREWORKS, YOU'D BETTER HAVE PLENTY OF WATER READY...
...IN CASE THE HOUSE CATCHES ON FIRE!!
...SHE NEEDS TO LEARN TO TRUST ME...

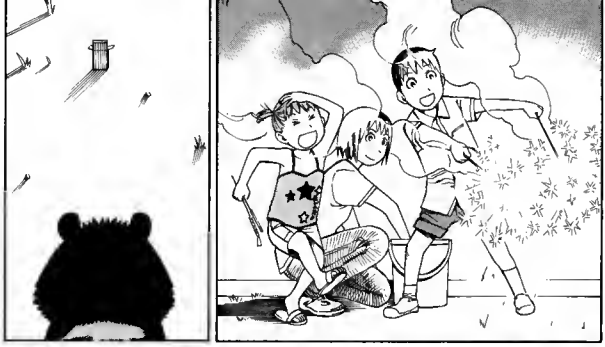


BOX: A MAN'S EXPLOSION


THAT'S IT?
.....
シュッ
WHOOSH!


WEAK.
I GUESS MEN ALWAYS LET YOU DOWN.

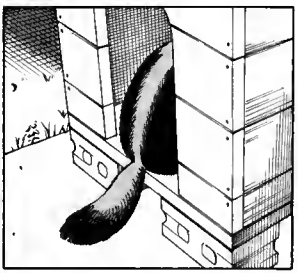




HEH HEH HEH, KEEP WATCHING THE SHINY LIGHTS.

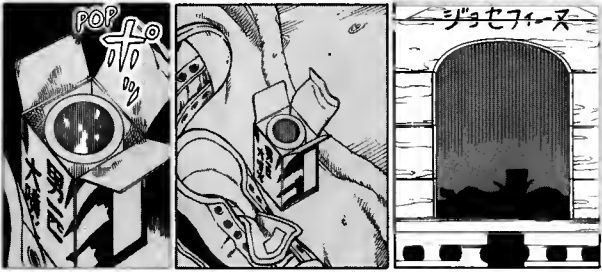
パク
CHOMP

I'VE SUCCESS-FULLY OBTAINED THREE QUALITY ITEMS TODAY!



I NEED TO RETURN AND ACT LIKE NOTHING HAPPENED.
OH!

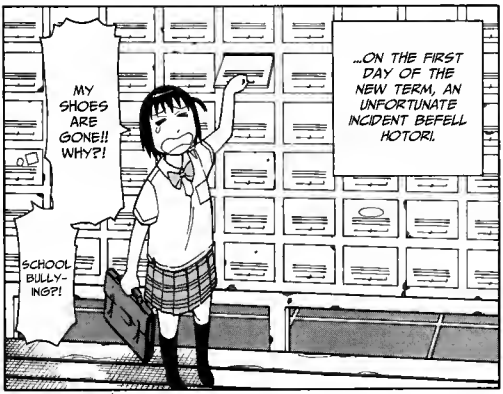
ACTING LIKE NOTHING HAPPENED.
ハワイ


POP
ポ
ジョセフィーヌ

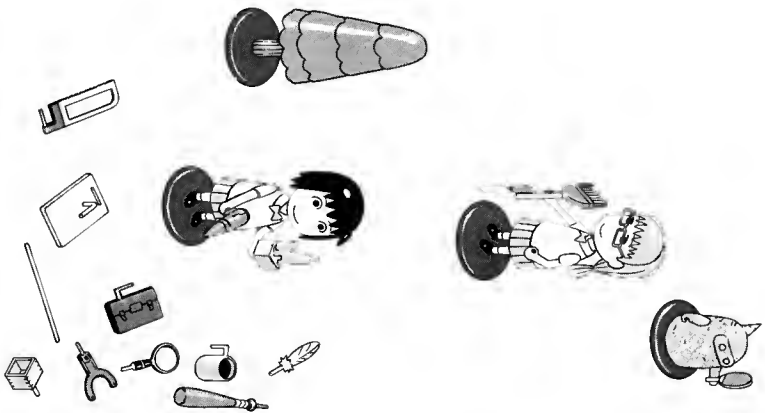
BANG
ドン
バン
BANG
WHA—
WHAT —?!
ジョセフィーヌ
BURN
メラ
メラ
BURN
メラ
BURN
WHOA—
JOSEPHINE'S…

...ON FIRE!!
...HOUSE IS...

DID THE SPARKS FROM THE SPARKLERS FLY ALL THE WAY OVER THERE?!
WHY?!
SIS, USE THE WATER!!
STUPID! THAT'S A CANDLE!
OW! I SCREWED UP...



CHAPTER 40 / END

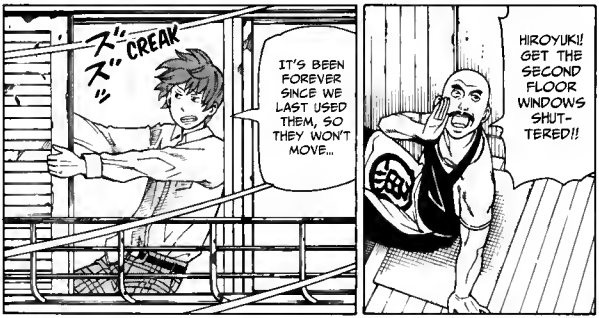


CHAPTER 41

SCREEN: TOKYO / EDASAWA RIHO

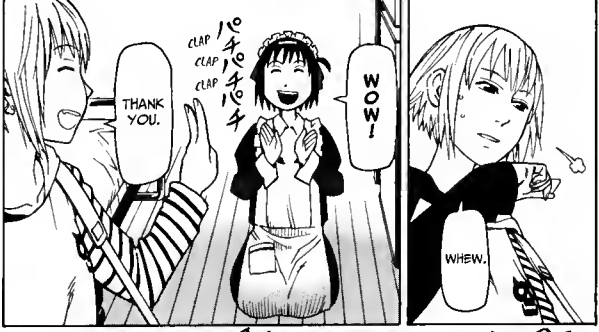
荒井クリーニング
THIS ONE ISN'T GOING TO MISS US—!
YEAH...
OH.
4:16
CENTRAL PRESSURE IS 950 HPA. TOP WIND SPEED IS 30 M/S. EXPECTED RAINFALL IS—

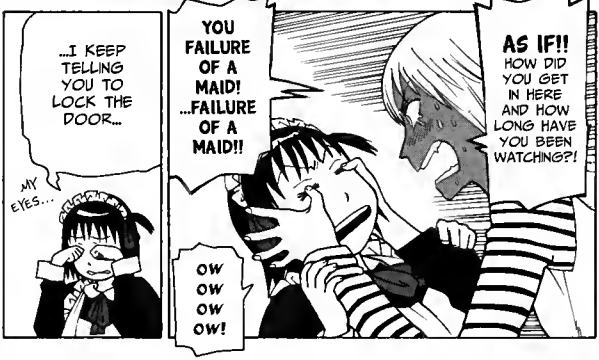
APRON: ARAI DRY CLEANING

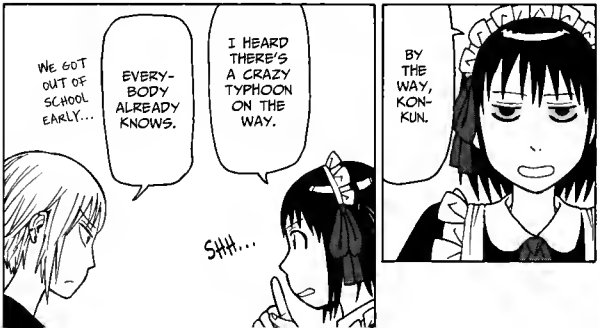


CHAPTER 41
STORMY NIGHT

JAM
JAM
TAP
TAP
KAWAI APART-MENTS
Yeah!
Yeah!
THUMP
THUMP
WHOO!
YEAHH!
Yeah!


WHEW.
WOW!
CLAP CLAP CLAP
パチパチパチ
THANK YOU.


AS IF!! HOW DID YOU GET IN HERE AND HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN WATCHING?!
YOU FAILURE OF A MAID! ...FAILURE OF A MAID!!
OW OW OW OW!
...I KEEP TELLING YOU TO LOCK THE DOOR...
MY EYES...

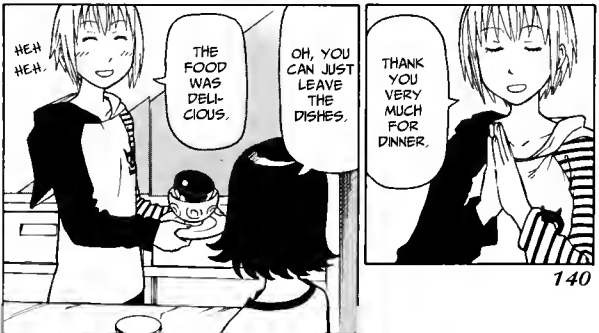

BY THE WAY, KON-KUN.
I HEARD THERE'S A CRAZY TYPHOON ON THE WAY.
EVERY-BODY ALREADY KNOWS.
WE GOT OUT OF SCHOOL EARLY...
SHH...

IT MUST BE HARD LIVING ALONE ON SUCH A STORMY NIGHT.
SO WE HELD A FAMILY MEETING AND DECIDED THAT YOU SHOULD STAY AT OUR HOUSE TONIGHT.
DON'T DECIDE WHAT I'M GOING TO DO FOR ME...
WITH THAT SETTLED, OKAY! BRING YOUR EMERGENCY KIT!
WHY DO YOU KNOW WHERE I KEEP THAT?!
HEY. COME HERE, KITTY.
WHAT'S ITS NAME? BURIED TREASURE?
IT'S CANARY.
YOU SAID IT WRONG ON PUR-POSE.

BESIDES, IF A TWISTER HITS THIS FLIMSY APARTMENT, YOU'LL BE CRUSHED.
IS IT REALLY OKAY FOR ME TO STAY THE NIGHT?
PER-FECTLY FINE.
PUNCH!
YOU'RE STUPID! STU...! YOU'RE! STUPID! A LITTLE TWISTER CAN'T CRUSH THIS NICE APARTMENT!
STUPID!
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO ALWAYS SAYS THIS PLACE IS FALLING APART.
THE LANDLADY! IS RIGHT OVER THERE!!
OW!!
YOU DON'T NEED TO WORRY ABOUT ME...

I AM CURRENTLY STANDING AT KITAMI PORT...!
ザアア
DRIZZLE

I CAN BARELY KEEP STANDING... WHOA!
THE WAVES CAN ALMOST REACH ME...
THE RAIN AND WIND ARE PICKING UP...

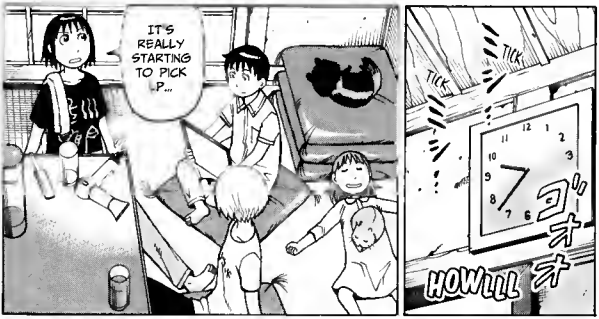

HEH HEH.
THE FOOD WAS DELI-CIOUS.
OH, YOU CAN JUST LEAVE THE DISHES.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR DINNER.

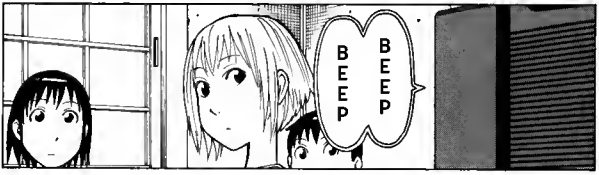
MOM, BRING ME BARLEY TEA, TOO!
GET YOUR OWN TEA.
I CAN BRING YOU HOT TEA OR COLD BARLEY TEA.
OH, THEN I'LL HAVE BARLEY TEA...

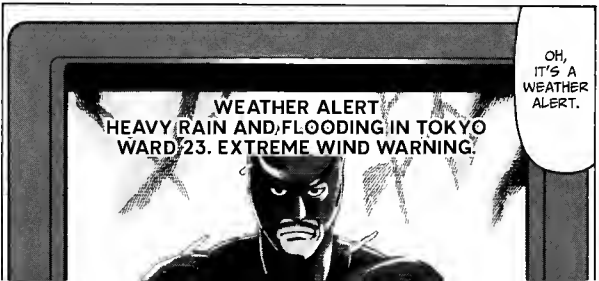
CANARY! CANARY!
PON-CHAN IS ROUND.
PON-CHAN.
YELP!
WHINE

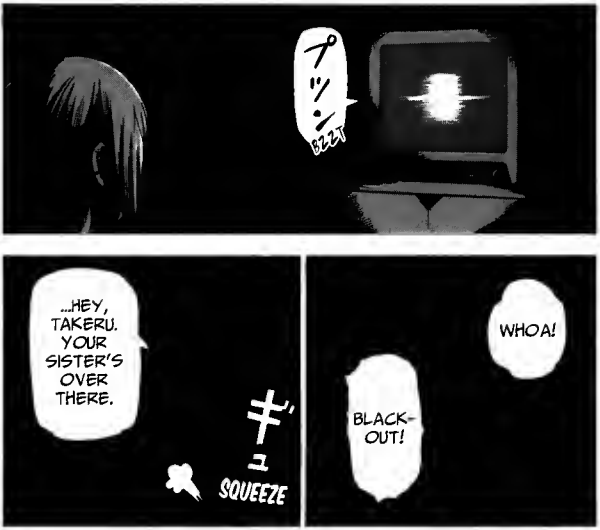
YOUR NAME IS PON-CHAN, RIGHT?
WHINE
HERE'S YOUR TEA.
DON'T CALL JOSIE WEIRD NAMES.

ゴオオオオ
HOWLL


IT'S REALLY STARTING TO PICK UP...
TICK
TICK
ゴオ
HOWLL オ

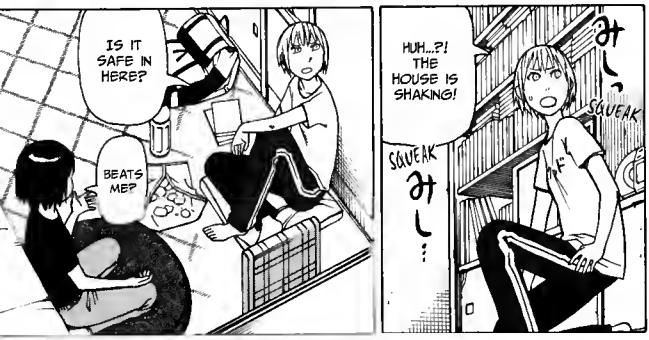

BEEP
BEEP

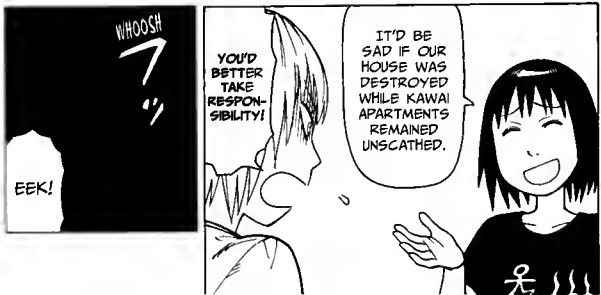

WEATHER ALERT
HEAVY RAIN AND FLOODING IN TOKYO WARD 23. EXTREME WIND WARNING.
OH, IT'S A WEATHER ALERT.



SHIRT: HOLLYWOOD

BAG: EGGPLANT CHIPS




WHOOSH
フッ
EEK!
YOU'D BETTER TAKE RESPONSIBILITY!
IT'D BE SAD IF OUR HOUSE WAS DESTROYED WHILE KAWAI APARTMENTS REMAINED UNSCATHED.

THIS MIGHT BE A LONG ONE.
...IT'S NOT COMING BACK.
.....
THE POWER WENT OUT AGAIN.

OH, NICE IDEA!
THAT'S WHY I KEEP A FLASHLIGHT IN MY ROOM!!

HERE, USE THE LIGHT FROM MY CELL PHONE TO FIND IT.
WE LIVE IN A WORLD OF CONVE-NIENCE.
YOU'RE SO STUPID!!
BUT I CAN'T FIND IT IN THE DARK.

PUTTING THE CART BEFORE THE HORSE!
BETTER SAFE THAN SORRY!
TA-DA! FOUND IT!
DO YOU KNOW HOW TO DESCRIBE THIS SITUA-TION?
.....
HUH?
CLICK
カチ
...TO BUY BAT-TERIES!
WE CAN GO TO THE CONVE-NIENCE STORE...
YOU'RE NOT READY FOR ANYTHING.
THE BATTER-IES ARE DEAD.

HOWLLL
.....
.....
DRIZZLE
ザァァ
ゴォォ

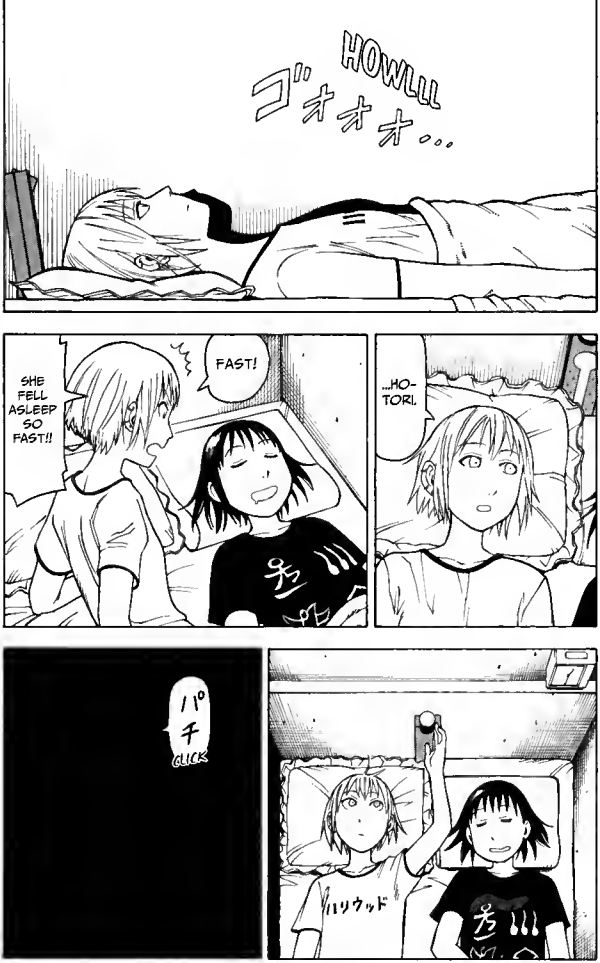
YOU SHOULD HAVE TOLD ME ABOUT THIS SOONER.
OH, IT HAS A RADIO!
THAT WON'T HELP YOU.
ハリウッド

ハリウッド

I'M A DOG. BOW WOW.

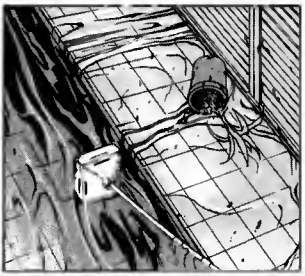
I'M A KETTLE.
OOH, A KETTLE! HOW DO YOU DO THAT ONE?

MEANIE!
I WON'T TELL YOU.

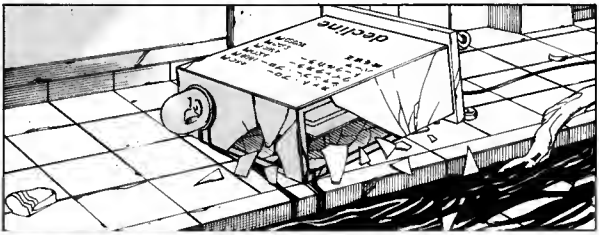

HOWLLL
ゴオオオ...
SHE FELL ASLEEP SO FAST!!
FAST!
...HO-TORI.
パチ
CLICK

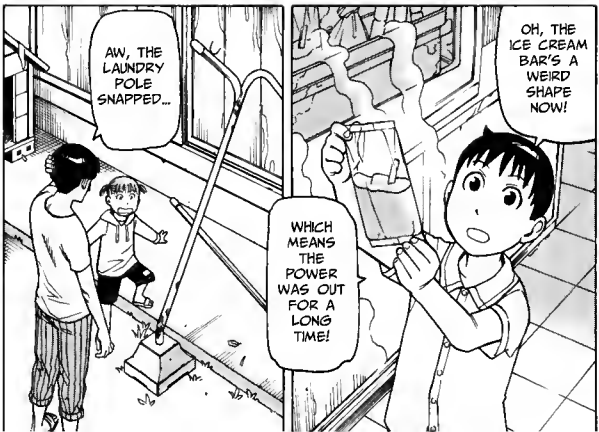
HOWL!!
ビュオオ……
OH... I THINK I'M FALLING ASLEEP...
ドス
WHUMP
ゴロ!
ROLL
GUH—!

WHAT'S WRONG WITH HER?!
SHE MOVES LIKE CRAZY IN HER SLEEP ...!!
...UGH.
...UH.
HUH?
BAM



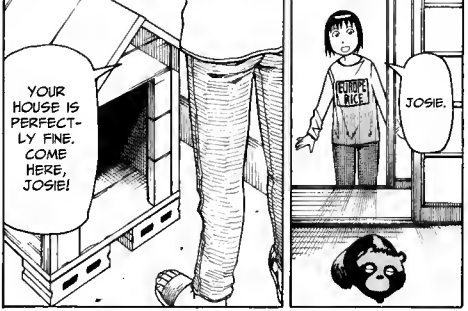
DAMAGE REPORT 1



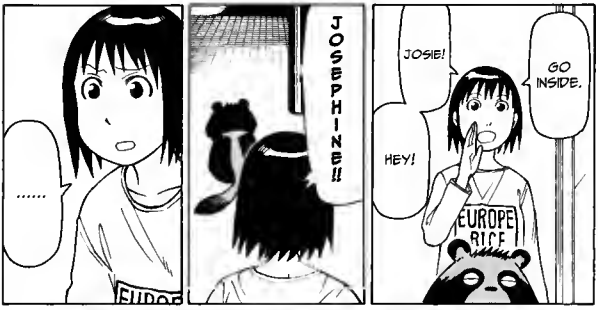


DAMAGE REPORT 2

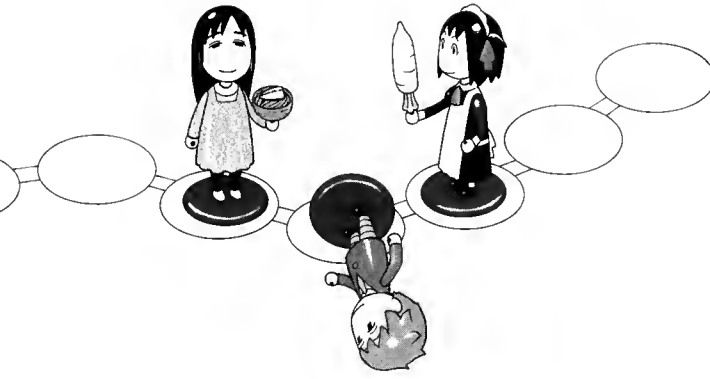
BOTTLE: MEDICINAL PAIN AWAY: DISINFECTS WITHOUT STINGING



DAMAGE REPORT 3

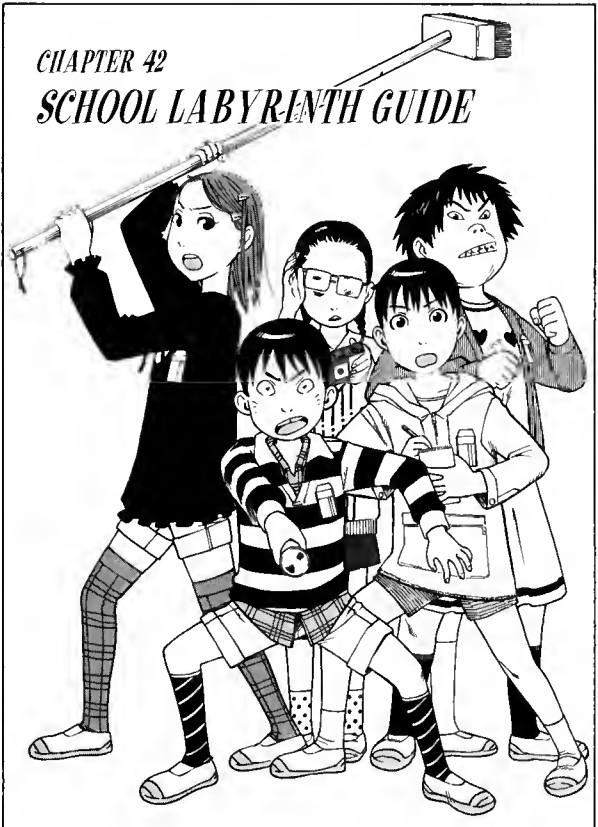


CHAPTER 41 / END

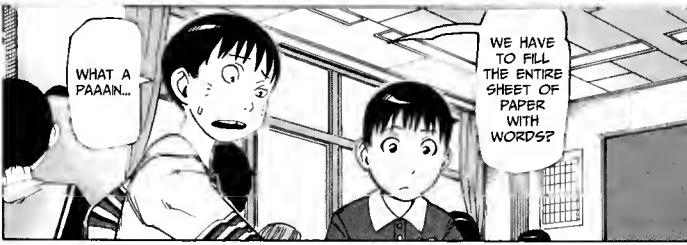


THE THREE OLDIES

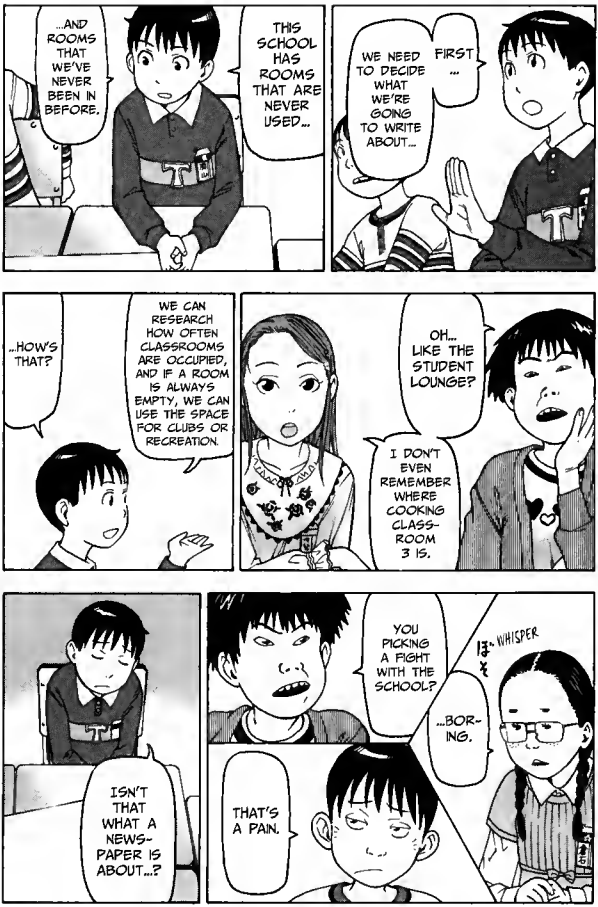
CHAPTER 42
SCHOOL LABYRINTH GUIDE



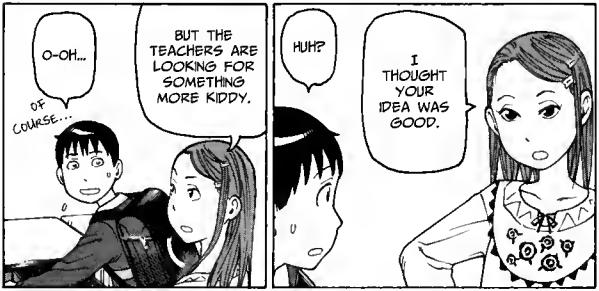
YAK
YAK
YAK
比音小学校
SIGN: NINE GRADE SCHOOL
4年3組
SIGN: CLASS 4-3

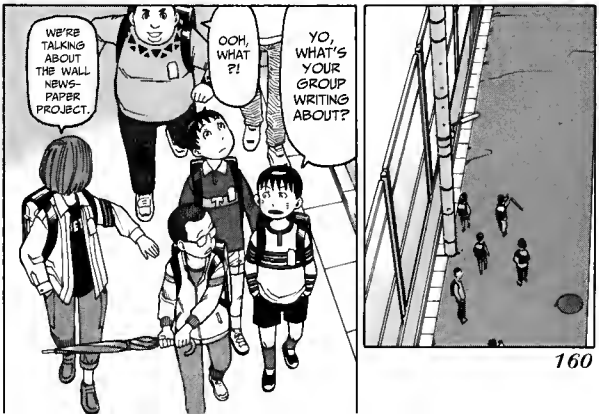

WHAT A PAAAIN...
WE HAVE TO FILL THE ENTIRE SHEET OF PAPER WITH WORDS?

TEACHER, MAKITA-KUN KEEPS GOOFING AROUND!
I-I'M SORRY!!
WHAT SHOULD WE CALL IT?
HOW ABOUT THE SPINY LOBSTER PAPER?


...AND ROOMS THAT WE'VE NEVER BEEN IN BEFORE.
THIS SCHOOL HAS ROOMS THAT ARE NEVER USED...
FIRST ...
WE NEED TO DECIDE WHAT WE'RE GOING TO WRITE ABOUT...
..HOW'S THAT?
WE CAN RESEARCH HOW OFTEN CLASSROOMS ARE OCCUPIED, AND IF A ROOM IS ALWAYS EMPTY, WE CAN USE THE SPACE FOR CLUBS OR RECREATION.
OH... LIKE THE STUDENT LOUNGE?
I DON'T EVEN REMEMBER WHERE COOKING CLASS-ROOM 3 IS.
ISN'T THAT WHAT A NEWS-PAPER IS ABOUT...?
THAT'S A PAIN.
YOU PICKING A FIGHT WITH THE SCHOOL?
...BOR-ING.
WHISPER
ほそ

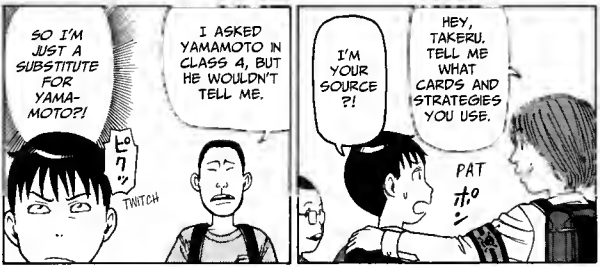
ARASHI-YAMA-KUN.

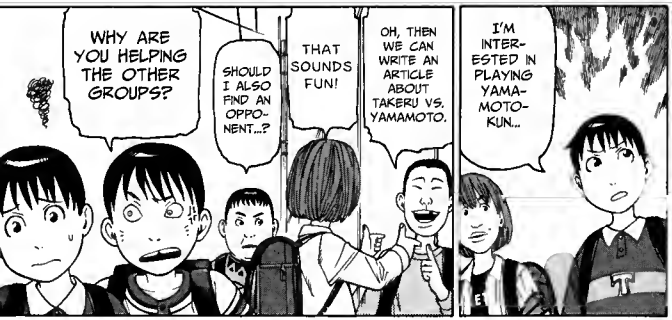

O-OH...
OF COURSE...
BUT THE TEACHERS ARE LOOKING FOR SOMETHING MORE KIDDY.
HUH?
I THOUGHT YOUR IDEA WAS GOOD.


WE'RE TALKING ABOUT THE WALL NEWS-PAPER PROJECT.
OOH, WHAT?!
YO, WHAT'S YOUR GROUP WRITING ABOUT?

SEE? THESE TOPICS ARE MORE ACCEPTED AND MORE FUN.
I'M GOING TO REVIEW OONO'S MONSTER-SIZE CURRY.
OUR GROUP IS WRITING ABOUT THE GHOST THAT APPEARS IN THE 6TH GRADE BUILDING.
WE'RE WRITING A PIECE ON DEMON COLOSSEUM STRATEGIES.

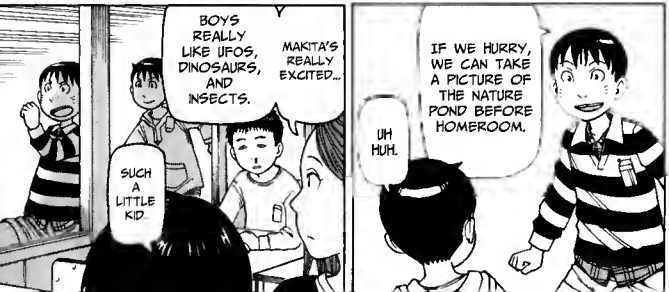
DEMON COLOSSEUM IS A CARD GAME THAT'S POPULAR WITH GRADE SCHOOL KIDS.


SO I'M JUST A SUBSTITUTE FOR YAMA-MOTO?!
I ASKED YAMAMOTO IN CLASS 4, BUT HE WOULDN'T TELL ME.
TWITCH
I'M YOUR SOURCE ?!
HEY, TAKERU. TELL ME WHAT CARDS AND STRATEGIES YOU USE.
PAT

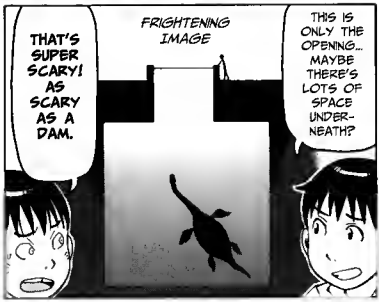

WHY ARE YOU HELPING THE OTHER GROUPS?
SHOULD I ALSO FIND AN OPPO-NENT...?
THAT SOUNDS FUN!
OH, THEN WE CAN WRITE AN ARTICLE ABOUT TAKERU VS. YAMAMOTO.
I'M INTER-ESTED IN PLAYING YAMA-MOTO-KUN...

ONE OF THE SEVEN MYSTERIES AT HINE GRADE SCHOOL...
A DINOSAUR IS SAID TO LIVE IN THE NATURE POND IN THE COURT-YARD...
HUH? MESSIE?
...ARE YOU STUPID?
WHY DON'T WE WRITE ABOUT THIS?
ALSO KNOWN AS MEDAKA POND'S MES-SIE!!
THAT STORY'S BEEN AROUND SINCE MY SISTER WAS IN GRADE SCHOOL.
ACTU-ALLY...
WHAT WAS THAT, LOBSTER GIRL?!
SO NOISY.

TAGS: MAKITA, ARASHIYAMA, ISESAKI


BOYS REALLY LIKE UFOS, DINOSAURS, AND INSECTS.
MAKITA'S REALLY EXCITED...
SUCH A LITTLE KID.
IF WE HURRY, WE CAN TAKE A PICTURE OF THE NATURE POND BEFORE HOMEROOM.
UH HUH.

WELL, WE'VE ARRIVED AT THE NATURE POND.


FRIGHTENING IMAGE
THAT'S SUPER SCARY! AS SCARY AS A DAM.
THIS IS ONLY THE OPENING... MAYBE THERE'S LOTS OF SPACE UNDER-NEATH?

...IT CERTAINLY LOOKS TOO SMALL FOR A DINOSAUR TO LIVE IN...

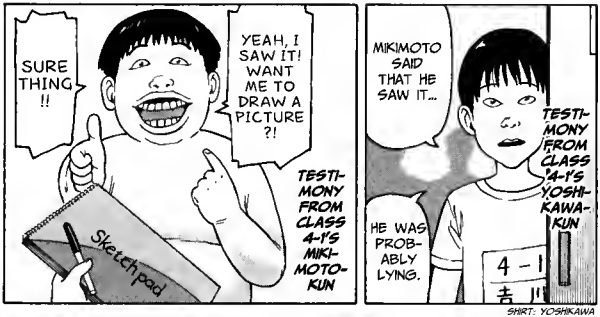
I'M PRETTY SURE THE ALGAE'S SUPPOSED TO BE THERE...

ARE THEY CLEANING THIS THING? I CAN'T SEE ANYTHING BECAUSE OF ALL THE ALGAE.
THIS POND IS REALLY DIRTY THOUGH...

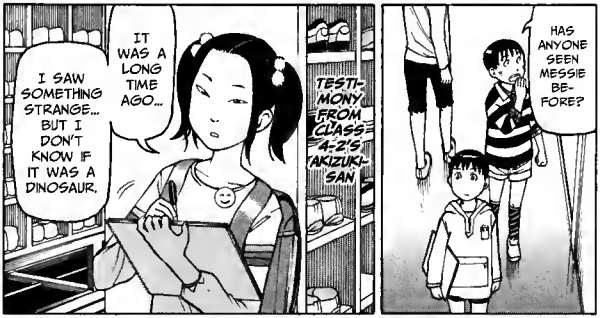
THEY DRAIN THE WATER WHEN THEY CLEAN THE POND...
..SO THEY WOULD HAVE SEEN IF ANYTHING LIVES DOWN THERE.
THAT'S RIGHT.
OH, CLEANING.
?
DING
キーン
DONG
コーン
GOOD PLAN!!
LET'S FIND THAT PERSON.
SOMEBODY MUST BE CLEANING THIS POND.
WE'LL START SEARCHING DURING OUR NEXT BREAK.
Y-YES, SIR—
HEY, GO BACK TO YOUR CLASSROOM.
カーン
DING

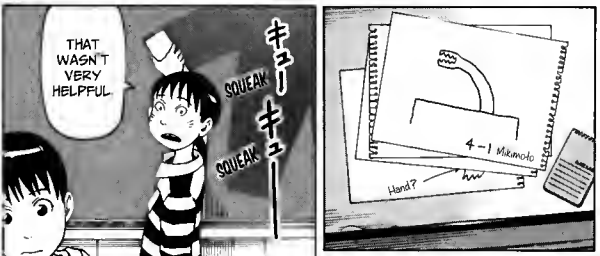
IF YOU WANT TO KNOW ABOUT THE NATURE POND, YOU SHOULD ASK MR. SONE.
TESTIMONY FROM HOMEROOM TEACHER ITAGAKI TERUYO
TESTIMONY FROM MR. SONE
THE NATURE POND...
...IS CLEANED ONCE A YEAR BY MR. KUNIMI, THE JANITOR.
MMM
TESTIMONY FROM THE JANITOR KUNIMI NARUHIKO
I'VE BEEN WORKING HERE FOR TEN YEARS...
...AND I'VE NEVER SEEN A DINOSAUR... I'D LOVE TO SEE ONE.
HE-HEH...
CAN YOU DESCRIBE THE NATURE POND FOR US? SUCH AS HOW DEEP IT IS...
HE'S GOT A SCARY FACE.
WELLLLL... IT'S EXACTLY HOW IT LOOKS FROM THE OUTSIDE.
IT'S ONLY SLIGHTLY DEEPER THAN GROUND LEVEL.

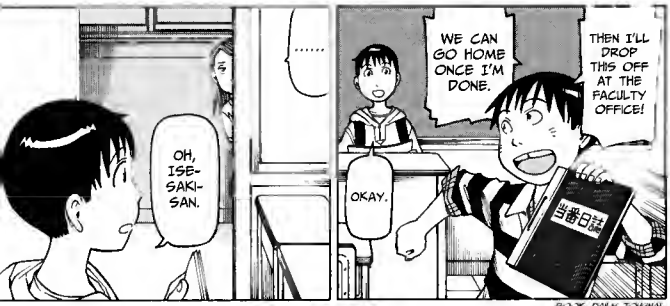
IF THE PERSON CLEANING THE POND SAYS THERE'S NOTHING THERE... THERE'S NOTHING THERE.
WHAT ARE YOU GONNA WRITE?
OUR SEARCH IS ALREADY OVER.
PERSONALLY, I DON'T THINK IT EXISTS.
I WANT TO KNOW WHY THERE'S A LEGEND ABOUT THE POND.
I'M NOT INTERESTED IN DETERMINING WHETHER OR NOT IT EXISTS.
YEAH.
DURING OUR LUNCH BREAK AND AFTER SCHOOL, WE CAN TALK TO PEOPLE WHO'VE SEEN MESSIE.
NIBBLE
もぐ…



SHIRT: YOSHIKAWA

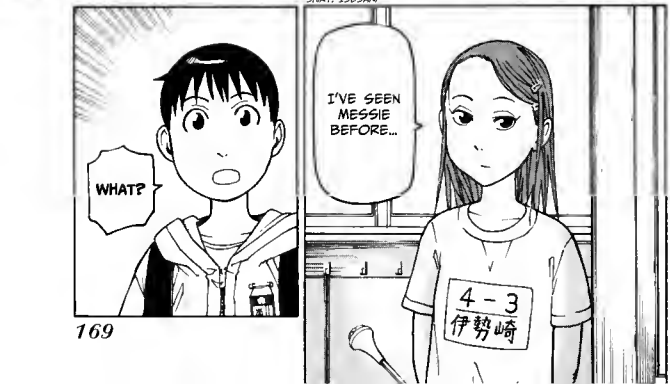

I SAW SOMETHING STRANGE... BUT I DON'T KNOW IF IT WAS A DINOSAUR.
IT WAS A LONG TIME AGO...
TESTIMONY FROM CLASS 4-2'S AKIZUKI-SAN
HAS ANYONE SEEN MESSIE BEFORE?





SHIRT: ISESAKI

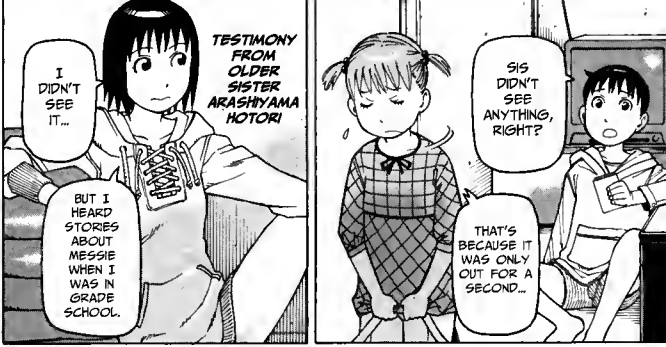
BOOK: DAILY JOURNAL



C-CAN YOU DRAW A PICTURE FOR ME?
UH HUH.
HERE.
4
SHE'S LYING.
Ebi

OH... THEY STILL MAKE YOU DO WALL NEWS-PAPERS.

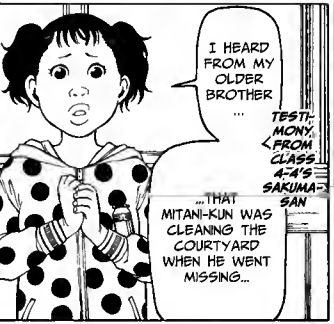
I DID ONE WHEN I WAS IN FOURTH GRADE...
THE ENTIRE SCHOOL WAS COVERED IN NEWS-PAPERS... IT WAS FUN.
SO I'M DOING SOME RESEARCH ON MESSIE RIGHT NOW.
ガラ SLIDE
MES-SIE?
TESTI-MONY FROM ARASHI-YAMA YUKIKO
I SAW MESSIE LAST YEAR.
WHEN SIS AND I WENT TO GET SOME-THING I LEFT AT SCHOOL...
...WE PASSED MEDAKA POND, AND...
IT FLEW OUT WITH A SPLASH!
JUMPED OUT WITH A SPLAT-TER!!
YOU KEEP CHANGING YOUR STORY...
NOW IT SHOWED UP TWICE.


TESTIMONY FROM OLDER SISTER ARASHIYAMA HOTORI
I DIDN'T SEE IT...
BUT I HEARD STORIES ABOUT MESSIE WHEN I WAS IN GRADE SCHOOL.
SIS DIDN'T SEE ANYTHING, RIGHT?
THAT'S BECAUSE IT WAS ONLY OUT FOR A SECOND...

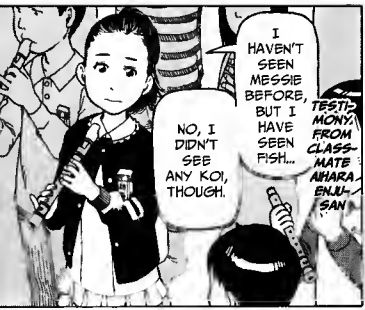
A FRIEND OF A FRIEND APPARENTLY SAW IT.
!
THE NATURE POND WAS BUILT WHEN I WAS IN FIRST GRADE... SO IT'S BEEN TEN YEARS.
THEN THEY STARTED GROWING ALL THAT ALGAE...

I CAN ASK MY FRIEND?
I GUESS ...?
SIS, CAN YOU ASK FOR MORE INFORMA-TION?

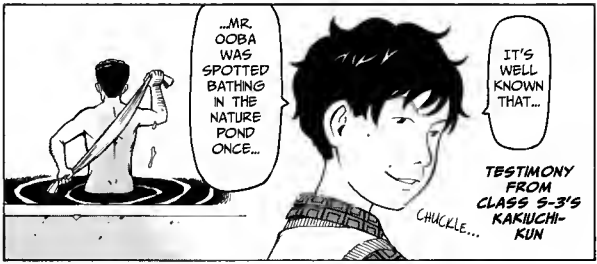
OKAY, THAT'S A PLAN.
TODAY, WE'LL INVESTIGATE IF THERE'S ANYTHING ODD ABOUT THE POND, ASIDE FROM MESSIE.

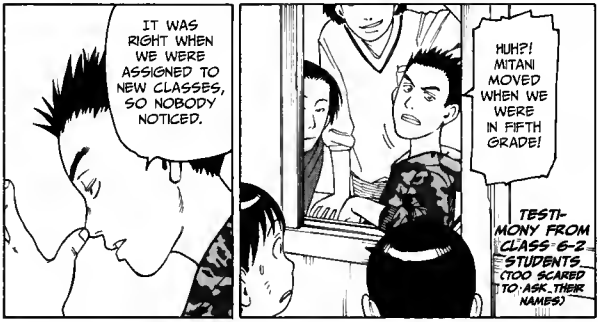

I HEARD FROM MY OLDER BROTHER ...
TESTIMONY FROM CLASS 4-4'S SAKUMA-SAN
...THAT MITANI-KUN WAS CLEANING THE COURTYARD WHEN HE WENT MISSING...

THERE AREN'T SUPPOSED TO BE ANY...
I'VE SEEN KOI IN MEDAKA POND BEFORE.
TESTIMONY FROM CLASS 3-2'S UJI-KUN
AND THE NEXT DAY, THEY WERE GONE.
SIGN: FIRE EXTINGUISHER


I HAVEN'T SEEN MESSIE BEFORE, BUT I HAVE SEEN FISH...
TESTIMONY FROM CLASSMATE AIHARA ENJU-SAN
NO, I DIDN'T SEE ANY KOI, THOUGH.

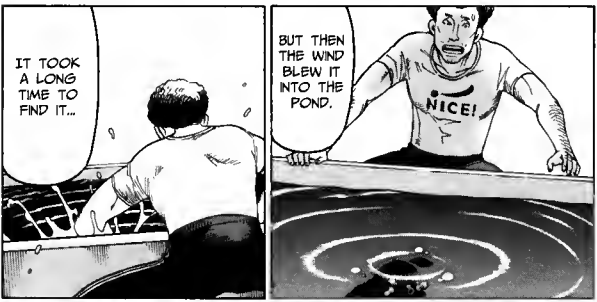
THEY FOUND A BROOM COVERED IN ALGAE NEXT TO THE NATURE POND.

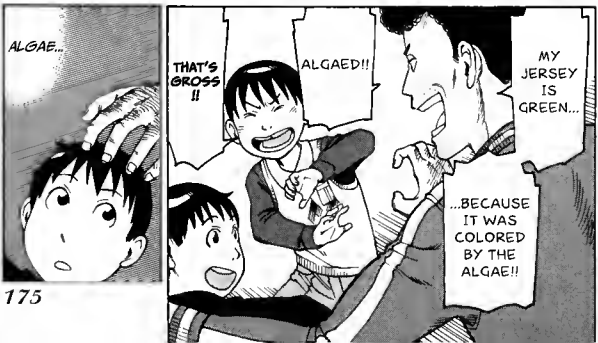

...MR. OOBA WAS SPOTTED BATHING IN THE NATURE POND ONCE...
IT'S WELL KNOWN THAT...
CHUCKLE...
TESTIMONY FROM CLASS 5-3'S KAKIUCHI-KUN

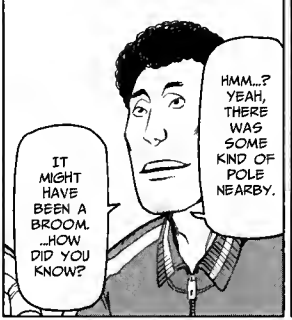

IT WAS RIGHT WHEN WE WERE ASSIGNED TO NEW CLASSES, SO NOBODY NOTICED.
HUH?! MITANI MOVED WHEN WE WERE IN FIFTH GRADE!
TESTI-MONY FROM CLASS 6-2 STUDENTS (TOO SCARED TO ASK THEIR NAMES)

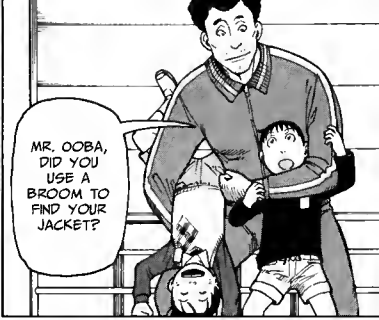
WAIT... ARE THEY TALKING ABOUT THAT...?
I NEVER DID THAT!!
BATHING IN THE POND?!
TESTIMONY FROM MR. OOBA

I WAS STANDING IN THE COURTYARD TO GET SOME SUN...
NICE!
...SO I TOOK OFF MY JERSEY JACKET AND PLACED IT ON THE EDGE.


BUT THEN THE WIND BLEW IT INTO THE POND.
NICE!
IT TOOK A LONG TIME TO FIND IT...

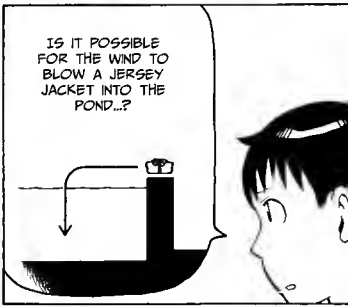

MY JERSEY IS GREEN...
ALGAED!!
THAT'S GROSS !!
...BECAUSE IT WAS COLORED BY THE ALGAE!!
ALGAE...


IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN A BROOM. ...HOW DID YOU KNOW?
HMM...? YEAH, THERE WAS SOME KIND OF POLE NEARBY.

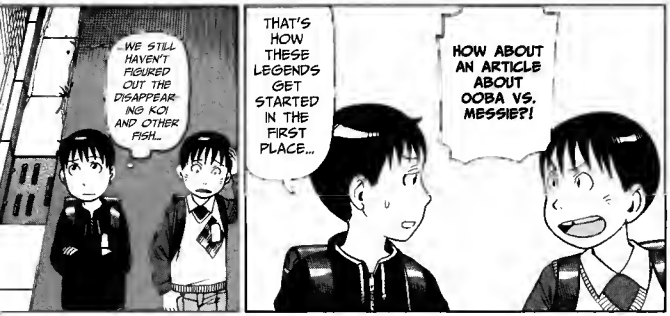

MR. OOBA, DID YOU USE A BROOM TO FIND YOUR JACKET?

UH HUH... BUT STILL...
THIS GIVES US PLENTY TO WRITE ABOUT.
THAT'S AWESOME, TAKERU! WE'RE SOLVING ALL KINDS OF MYSTERIES!

DOES THAT MEAN MESSIE EXISTS?
YOU MEAN SOMETHING DRAGGED THE JACKET IN?!

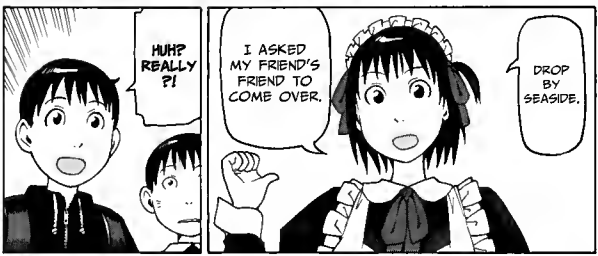

IS IT POSSIBLE FOR THE WIND TO BLOW A JERSEY JACKET INTO THE POND...?

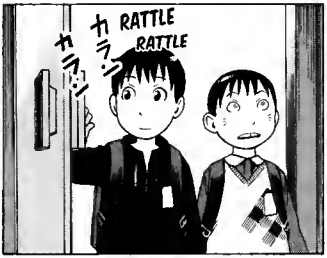
NO, WAIT!
WAIT, WAIT..
MESSIE WAS TRYING TO DRAG MR. OOBA INTO THE POND.
BUT MR. OOBA USED THE BROOM TO FIGHT MESSIE OFF!!


WE STILL HAVEN'T FIGURED OUT THE DISAPPEARING KOI AND OTHER FISH...
THAT'S HOW THESE LEGENDS GET STARTED IN THE FIRST PLACE...
HOW ABOUT AN ARTICLE ABOUT OOBA VS. MESSIE?!

HEY, TAKERU —!!

DON'T IGNORE ME.
WHACK
ポカ
HEY... IS THAT YOUR SISTER IN THE WEIRD OUTFIT?
NO... I DON'T KNOW WHO THAT IS.

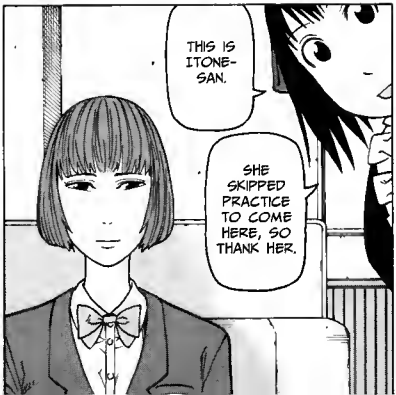

HUH? REALLY ?!
I ASKED MY FRIEND'S FRIEND TO COME OVER.
DROP BY SEASIDE.


RATTLE
RATTLE
カラン
カラン

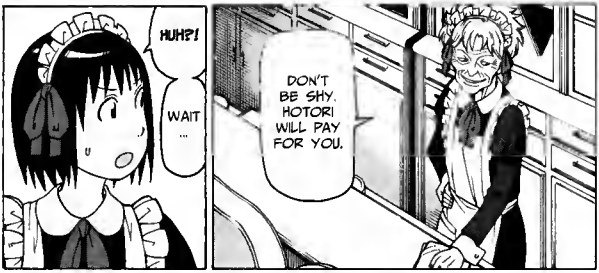
ランタイム
コーヒ
イド
茶
サイド

SHE ACTUALLY GOES TO THE SAME SCHOOL I DO.

ペコ
BOW


THIS IS ITONE-SAN.
SHE SKIPPED PRACTICE TO COME HERE, SO THANK HER.

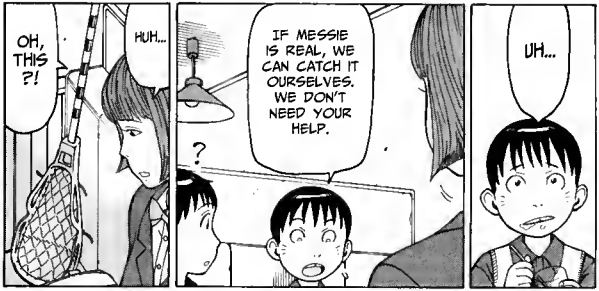
IT'S OKAY. WE DON'T HAVE ANY MONEY...
DO YOU WANT SOME-THING TO DRINK?

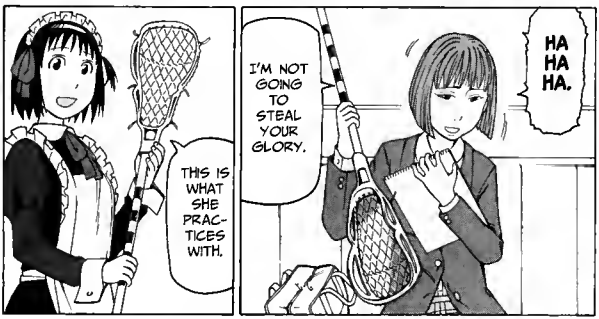

HUH?!
WAIT ...
DON'T BE SHY. HOTORI WILL PAY FOR YOU.

I'M GOING TO HAVE A PARFAIT BEFORE I GO HOME!!
HELLO, MOM?

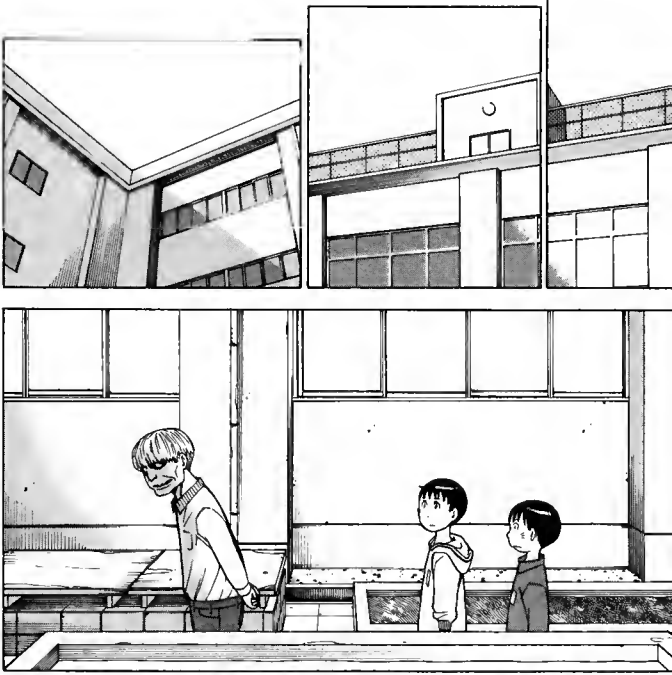
TESTIMONY FROM ITONE SUMIO
THE JANITOR... I DON'T REMEMBER HIS NAME, BUT HE HAD THE FACE OF A MONSTER.
IS HE STILL THERE?
BWAH HA HA, A MONSTER!!
DO YOU MEAN MR. KUNIMI?
OH, THAT'S IT.
KUNIMI. YES, THAT'S RIGHT.
LONG STORY SHORT ...
THAT JANITOR'S THE ONE WHO SAID THERE WAS A DINOSAUR IN THE POND.
WHAT ?!
WHEN I WAS YOUNG, I BELIEVED THAT THERE WAS A DINOSAUR THERE.
I WAS TOO SCARED TO GO NEAR THE POND FOR A WHILE.

I BEGAN TO DOUBT THE STORIES...
THERE CAN'T BE A DINOSAUR IN THERE. THAT'S JUST STUPID.
BUT WHEN I BECAME A FIFTH GRADER—
A CREATURE THAT WAS OUT OF THIS WORLD...
BUT THEN I SAW IT.
YES... I STILL REMEMBER IT.
WOULD YOU STILL BE ABLE TO DRAW A PICTURE OF IT?
ゴクリ
GULP

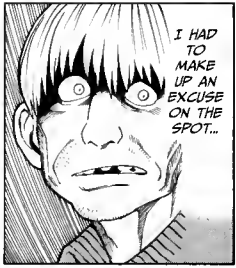

OH, THIS ?!
HUH...
IF MESSIE IS REAL, WE CAN CATCH IT OURSELVES. WE DON'T NEED YOUR HELP.
?
UH...

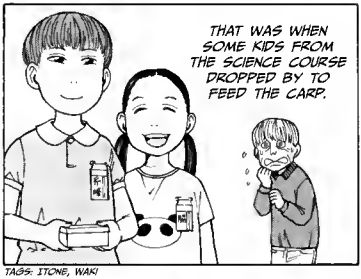

THIS IS WHAT SHE PRAC-TICES WITH.
I'M NOT GOING TO STEAL YOUR GLORY.
HA HA HA.

IT'S A LA-CROSSE RACKET.
YOU USE IT LIKE THIS.

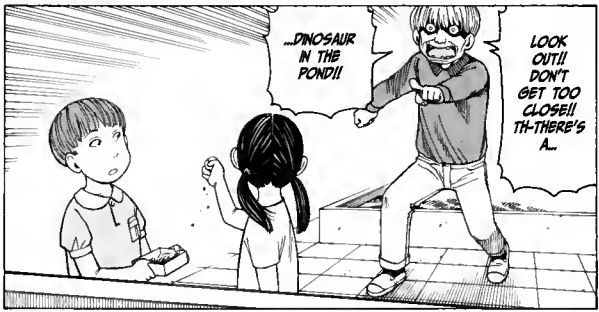

HEH...
SO YOU FOUND OUT.
HEH HEH...
I SEE...

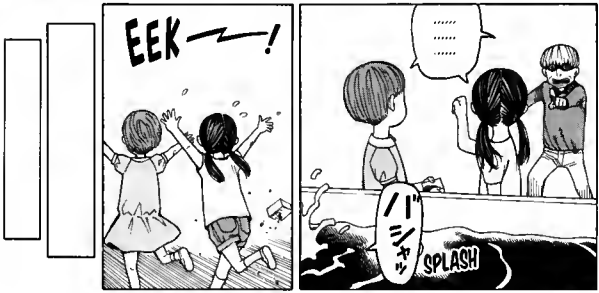
CONFESSION FROM JANITOR KUNIMI NARUHIKO
I WAS HIRED AS A JANITOR AROUND THE TIME THE NATURE POND WAS FIRST BUILD.
WHEN I SAW THE BRAND NEW POND, I COULDN'T ...
...HELP MY-SELF...
I KEEP A WARM WATER FISH IN A SMALL AQUARIUM ...
...AND I WANTED TO LET HIM SWIM IN AN OPEN SPACE.
SO I SNUCK HIM IN ONE NIGHT...
BUT THE NEXT DAY, I WAS IN FOR A SHOCK.
GACK!
BURP
MY FISH HAD EATEN ALL OF THE CARP IN THE POND!!



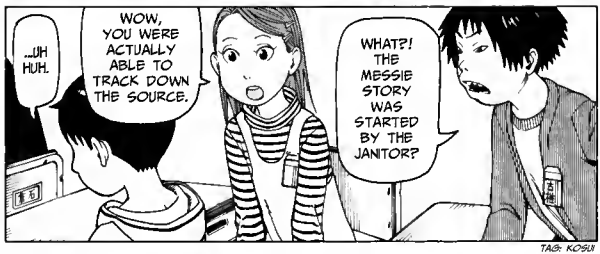


TAGS: ITONE, WAKI

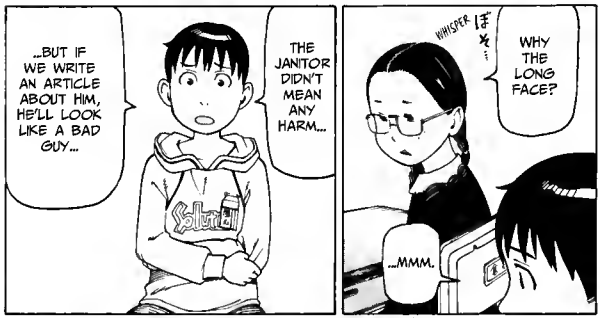




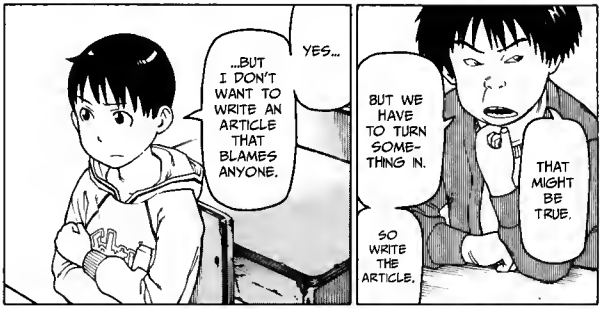
POSTERS: JOY

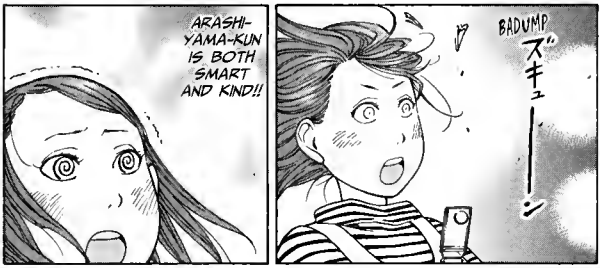


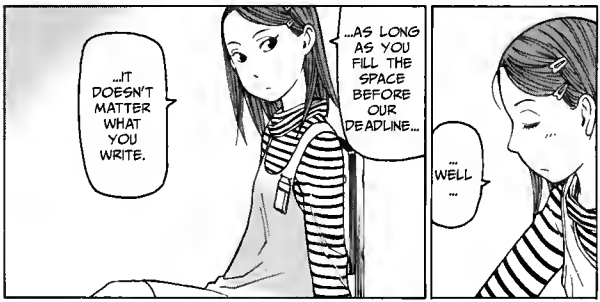
TAG: KOSUI


...BUT IF WE WRITE AN ARTICLE ABOUT HIM, HE'LL LOOK LIKE A BAD GUY...
THE JANITOR DIDN'T MEAN ANY HARM...
WHISPER ぼそ…
WHY THE LONG FACE?
...MMM.

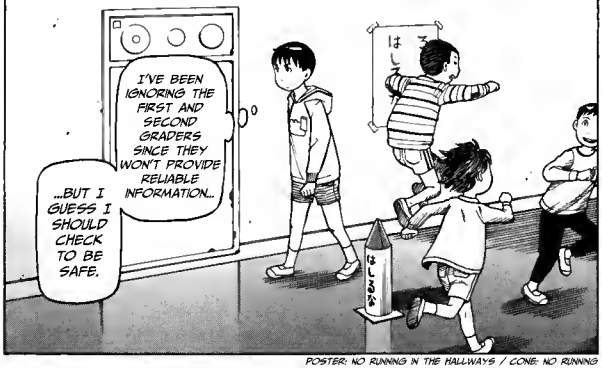
SEAT: KURASHI


THAT MIGHT BE TRUE.
BUT WE HAVE TO TURN SOME-THING IN.
SO WRITE THE ARTICLE.
YES...
...BUT I DON'T WANT TO WRITE AN ARTICLE THAT BLAMES ANYONE.

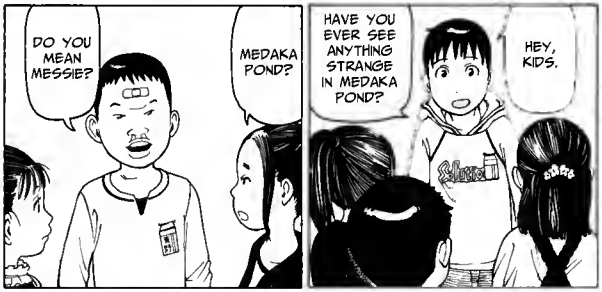

BADUMP
ズキューン
ARASHI-YAMA-KUN IS BOTH SMART AND KIND!!


...WELL...
...AS LONG AS YOU FILL THE SPACE BEFORE OUR DEADLINE...
...IT DOESN'T MATTER WHAT YOU WRITE.

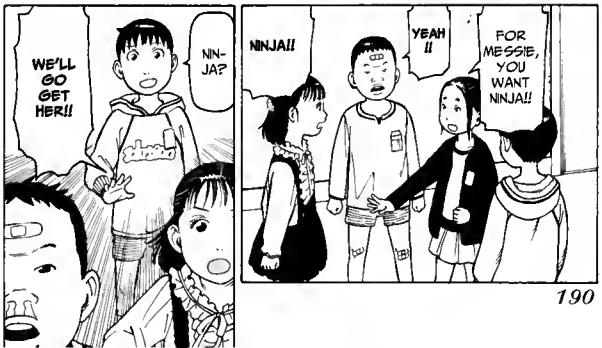
...UNANSWERED QUESTIONS.
BESIDES, THERE ARE STILL MANY...
...SO WHY ARE THERE MESSIE SIGHTINGS TEN YEARS LATER?!
4-1 Mikimoto
THE JANITOR WAS ONLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ORIGINAL STORY...
...I CAN'T WRITE AN ARTICLE YET...
BASED ON THE INFORMATION I CURRENTLY HAVE...
WE ALSO HAVE THE MISSING KOI AND FISH...


I'VE BEEN IGNORING THE FIRST AND SECOND GRADERS SINCE THEY WON'T PROVIDE RELIABLE INFORMATION...
...BUT I GUESS I SHOULD CHECK TO BE SAFE.
はしるな
はしるな

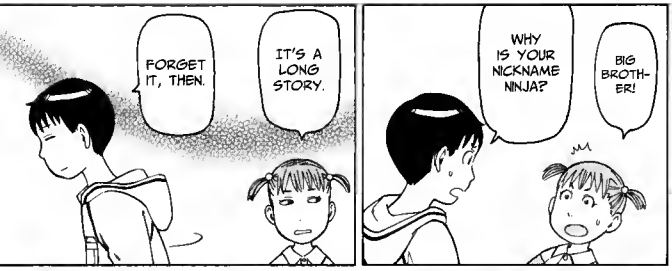
POSTER: NO RUNNING IN THE HALLWAYS / CONE: NO RUNNING



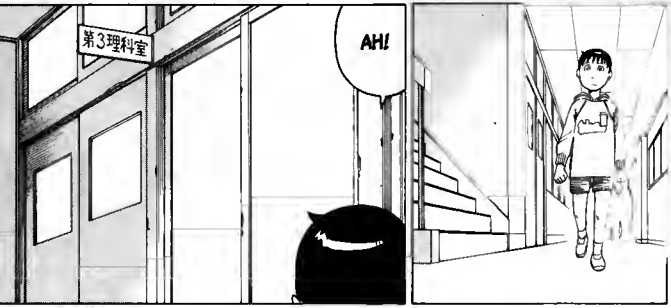
TAG: HARUNO

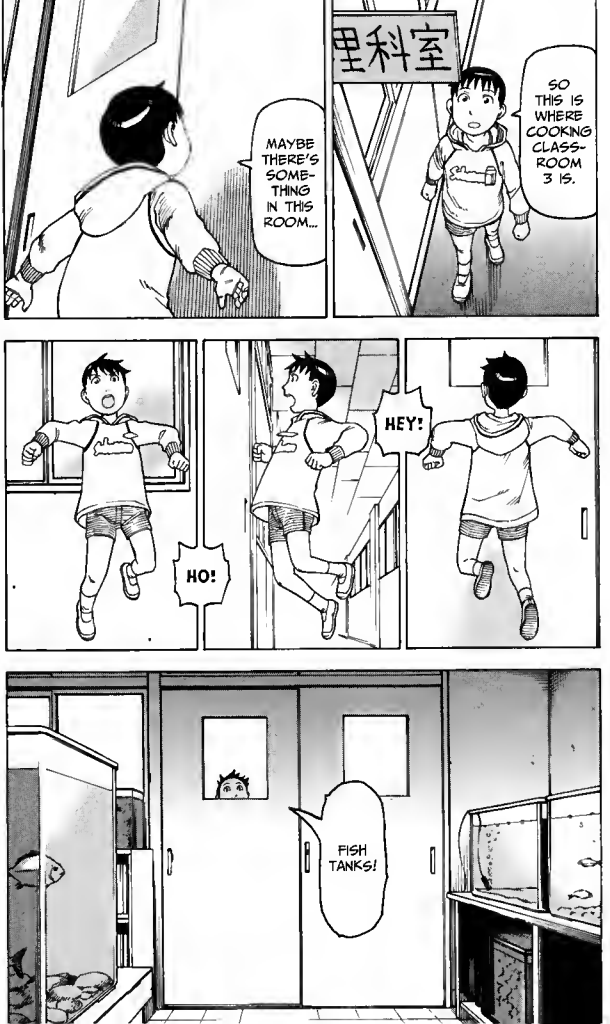


TAG: ARASHIYAMA

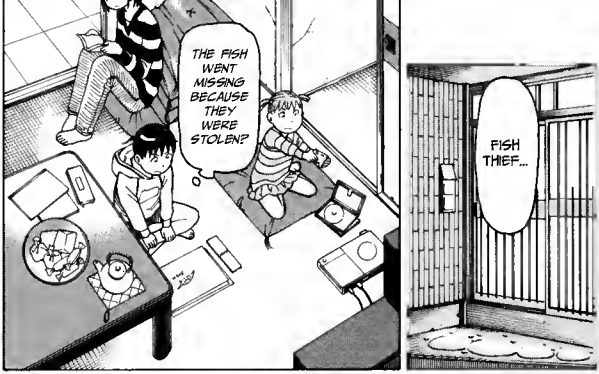


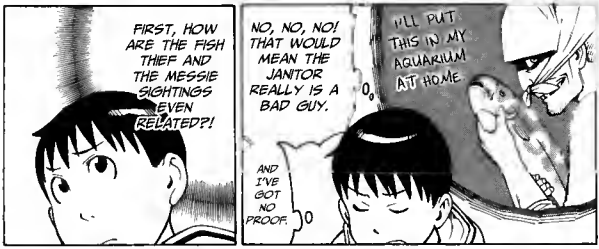
SIGN: COOKING CLASSROOM 3

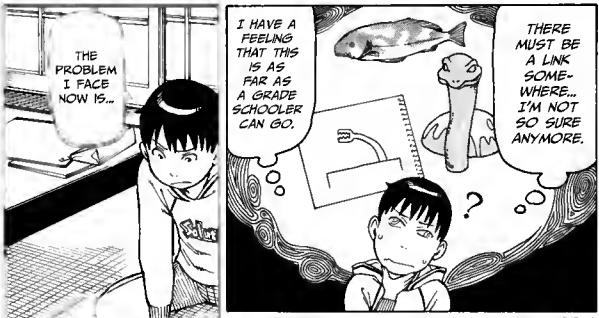


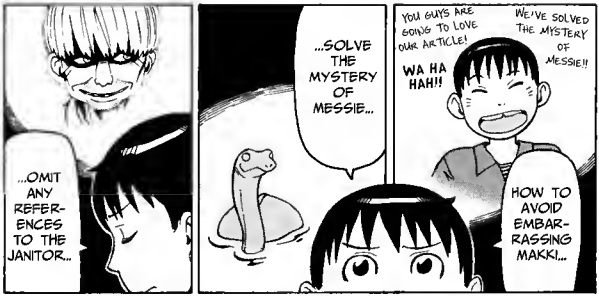

里科室
SO THIS IS WHERE COOKING CLASS-ROOM 3 IS.
MAYBE THERE'S SOME-THING IN THIS ROOM...
HEY!
HO!
FISH TANKS!

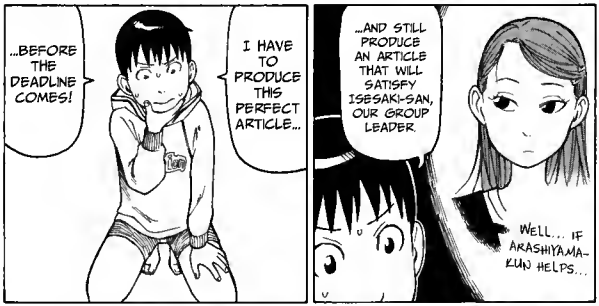
SLIDE
ガラ
MR. SONE!
DO YOU NEED SOMETHING?
WELL... I WAS WONDERING WHY WE'RE KEEPING FISH IN TANKS...
...WHEN WE HAVE A NICE NATURE POND...
TESTIMONY FROM MR. SONE
OH.
THERE WAS AN INCIDENT WHERE ALL OF THE CARP DISAPPEARED FROM THE POND.
MMM.
SINCE THEN, FISH WOULD MYSTERIOUSLY DISAPPEAR WHENEVER WE MOVED THEM TO THE POND.
INCLUDING THE KOI THAT THE PRINCIPAL DONATED.
MMM.
WE BELIEVED THAT IT WOULD BE DANGEROUS FOR THE STUDENTS IF A FISH THIEF WAS ON THE PROWL...
...SO WE STOPPED MOVING FISH TO THE NATURE POND.
MMM.
DON'T TELL ANYBODY ELSE.


THE FISH WENT MISSING BECAUSE THEY WERE STOLEN?
FISH THIEF...


FIRST, HOW ARE THE FISH THIEF AND THE MESSIE SIGHTINGS EVEN RELATED?!
NO, NO, NO! THAT WOULD MEAN THE JANITOR REALLY IS A BAD GUY.
I'LL PUT THIS IN MY AQUARIUM AT HOME
AND I'VE GOT NO PROOF.


THE PROBLEM I FACE NOW IS...
I HAVE A FEELING THAT THIS IS AS FAR AS A GRADE SCHOOLER CAN GO.
THERE MUST BE A LINK SOMEWHERE... I'M NOT SO SURE ANYMORE.

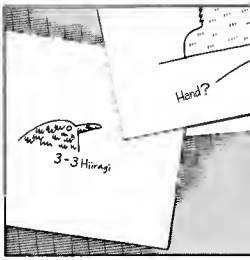

...OMIT ANY REFER-ENCES TO THE JANITOR...
...SOLVE THE MYSTERY OF MESSIE...
HOW TO AVOID EMBAR-RASSING MAKKI...
YOU GUYS ARE GOING TO LOVE OUR ARTICLE!
WA HA HAH!!
WE'VE SOLVED THE MYSTERY OF MESSIE!!


...BEFORE THE DEADLINE COMES!
I HAVE TO PRODUCE THIS PERFECT ARTICLE...
...AND STILL PRODUCE AN ARTICLE THAT WILL SATISFY ISEGAKI-SAN, OUR GROUP LEADER.
WELL... IF ARASHIYAMA-KUN HELPS...

.....
ISN'T THAT IMPOS-SIBLE ...?!

OH!
OH...

!

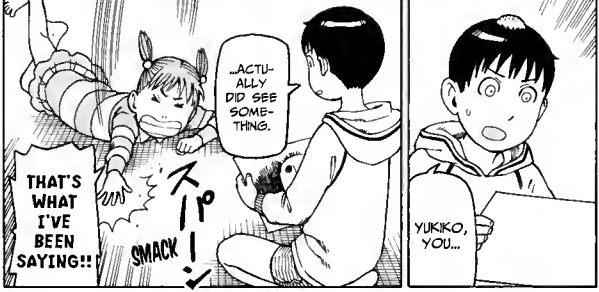

Hend?
3-3 Hirragi

DRAW ME A PICTURE OF THE MESSIE YOU SAW LAST YEAR!!
SIS! YUKIKO!

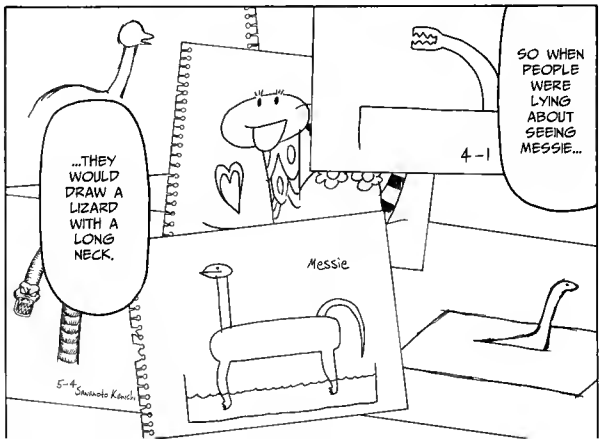
I REALLY SUCK AT DRAWING...

JUST DRAW WHAT YOU SAW!
BUT I DIDN'T SEE ANY-THING.
I CAN DO IT.

TH... THIS IS...
Messie
MY MENTAL IMAGE OF MESSIE.
HERE.
SNORT.. GUFFAW... THIS HAS TO BE SAVED FOR POSTERITY..!
BWAH HA HA HA!
SO BAD!! BWAH HA HA!!
ARE YOU FINISHED, YUKIKO?
PANT
PANT
PANT
PANT

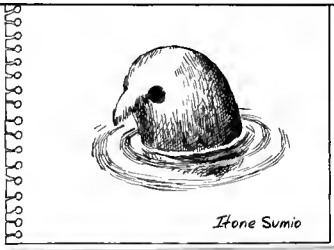

YUKIKO, YOU...
...ACTUALLY DID SEE SOMETHING.
THAT'S WHAT I'VE BEEN SAYING!!
スパーン
SMACK

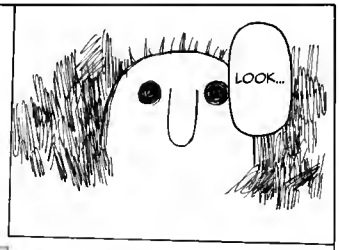
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
THERE WAS A RUMOR ABOUT A DINOSAUR LIVING IN THE NATURE POND...
...AND THE NAME "MESSIE" WAS BASED ON NESSIE.

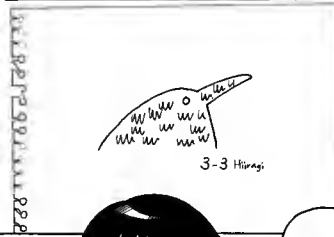

SO WHEN PEOPLE WERE LYING ABOUT SEEING MESSIE...
4-1
...THEY WOULD DRAW A LIZARD WITH A LONG NECK.
Messie
5-4 Shimoto Kenichi

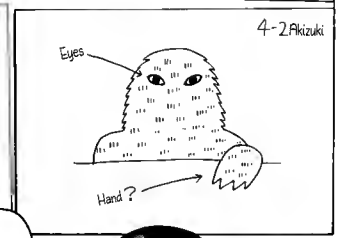
...AS WELL AS THE ONE ITONE-SAN DREW—
IF WE INCLUDE YUKIKO'S DRAWING...

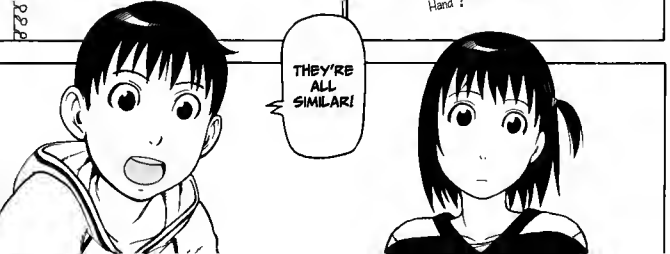
BUT THERE ARE A FEW EXCEPTIONS.


Itone Sumio


LOOK...

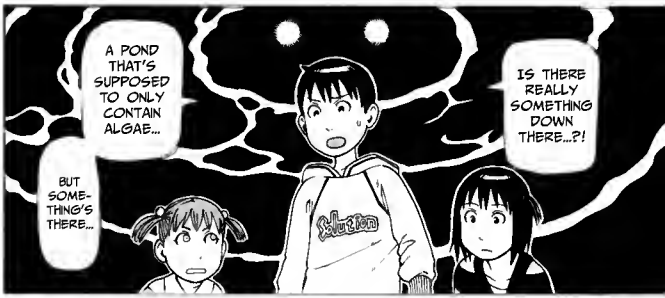

3-3 Hiiragi


4-2 Akizuki
Eyes
Hand?


THEY'RE ALL SIMILAR!

IT'S MESSIE.
BUT THESE FOUR DRAWINGS ARE OF THE SAME CREATURE!!

THE FAKE ONES ARE ALL DIFFERENT.
YOU'RE RIGHT.

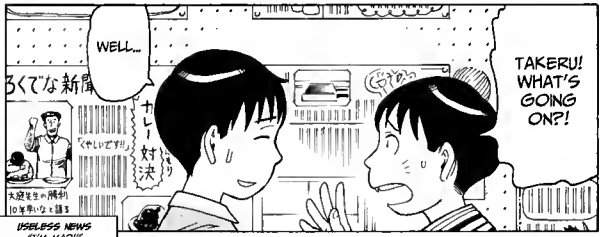

A POND THAT'S SUPPOSED TO ONLY CONTAIN ALGAE...
BUT SOME-THING'S THERE...
IS THERE REALLY SOMETHING DOWN THERE...?!

ALGAE ...

ONLY... CONTAIN... ALGAE...
...AH...

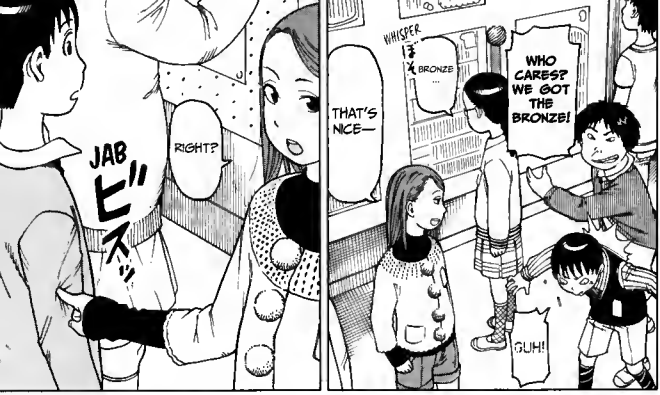
不思議通信
4年3組
4班
比音小七不思議！
かぜう池の恐竜を追う
WE, THE MEMBERS OF GROUP 4, HAVE SOLVED THE TEN-YEAR-OLD MYSTERY OF THE CREATURE KNOWN AS MESSIE.
MYSTERY NEWS
CLASS 4-3 GROUP 4 INVESTIGATING ONE OF NINE GRADE SCHOOL'S SEVEN MYSTERIES, THE DINOSAUR IN THE NATURE POND!
(...) AFTER REVIEWING ALL SIGHTINGS IN THE PAST TEN YEARS, THERE WERE FOUR DRAWING THAT WERE VERY SIMILAR. IS THIS MERELY...
HOW DO YOU PRONOUNCE THAT?
COINCI-DENCE.
...COINCI-DENCE?!
(...) ...IN OTHER WORDS, MESSIE WAS THE ALGAE IN THE NATURE POND!
MOB
AN UN-IDENTIFIED ALGAE-LIKE CREATURE!
WE HAVE NAMED THIS CREATURE "MAMON". (END)

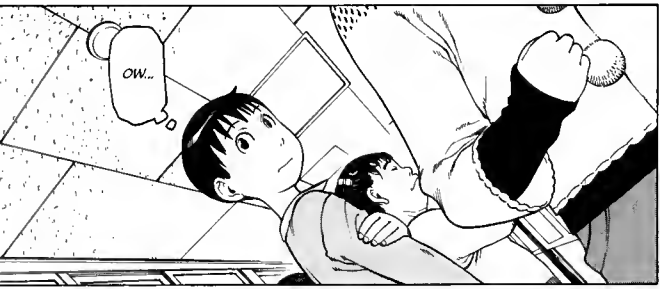
UMA: UNIDENTIFIED MYSTERIOUS ANIMAL



USELESS NEWS
"I'M MAD!!"
CURRY SHOWDOWN: MR. OOBA WINS. TELLS OPPONENT TO COME BACK IN TEN YEARS.

MYSTERY NEWS
CLASS 4-3 GROUP 4
MAKITA HAYATO, ARASHIYAMA TAKERU, KURAISHI SEIMO, KOSUI AYAKA, ISEGAKI ERI


JAB
ビッ
RIGHT?
THAT'S NICE—
WHISPER
BRONZE
WHO CARES? WE GOT THE BRONZE!
GUH!


OW..

SORRY I COULDN'T BRING YOU A LIVE FISH..
THE OTHER DAY, I LIED AND SAID YOU WERE A WARM WATER FISH...
I LIED ABOUT A DINOSAUR WHEN YOU ATE ALL THE CARP.
MONO-LOGUE FROM KUNIMI NARU-HIKO

WHEN A SINGLE LIE...
I'M SURE THEY WERE TRYING TO KEEP MY NAME OUT OF THE STORY.
MUST BE KARMA.
...CAN LEAD TO THAT INCRED-IBLE ARTICLE.
THIS WAS THE PERFECT JOB FOR RAISING YOU...
...BUT I'LL NEED TO MOVE ON SOON.

CHAPTER 42 / END

2008. 12. 3

AFTERWORD

HELLO. NOW THAT WE'RE ON THE FIFTH VOLUME, I'M RUNNING OUT OF THINGS TO WRITE HERE. HOWEVER, I CONTINUE TO INCLUDE AN AFTERWORD PAGE BECAUSE I'VE ALWAYS ENJOYED READING OTHER AUTHORS' COMMENTS AT THE END OF THEIR MANGA VOLUMES. SO I WILL CONTINUE TO INCLUDE THIS PAGE FOR ANY FANS OUT THERE.
STARTING WITH THIS VOLUME, I'VE CHANGED THE LAYOUT OF THE COVER.
I'M SURE IT'S HARD TO NOTICE ANY DIFFERENCE...
BUT IT WAS NEW TO ME AND TOOK MUCH LONGER THAN USUAL.
I PERSONALLY LIKED VOLUME 5'S COVER, REGARDLESS OF THE EFFORT PUT IN.

BY THE WAY, I CONDUCTED A SECRET CHARACTER POPULARITY POLL FOR "SOREMACHI".
THE SURVEY WAS SIMPLE. I CALLED SOME RELATIVES AND POLLED THEM.
HERE ARE THE RESULTS.

1ST HOTORI, 5 VOTES

2ND KON-SENPAI, 2 VOTES

3RD KAMEIDOU SHIZUKA, 1 VOTE

SPECIAL THANKS

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WEATHER ADVISOR ARAKANE-SAN

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